

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Diesel wins
the Dame for
action flick**

Page 19

Dame Judi Dench

**Parents, children
find Iraq duty
easier together**

Pages 4, 5



**NL battery
gives game
added juice**

Back page

Volume 2, No.87 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2004

Military families in Bahrain ordered out

Reports of terror threats prompt evacuation of about 650 Page 3



**‘A visible reminder
of the holy’**

Chaplain's blessings
welcome home war's fallen

Page 6

Air Force Chaplain Robert Cannon has met many fallen troops as they return to Dover Air Force Base, Del. He is scheduled to go to Iraq in September, where he will counsel soldiers in the field.

MARVIN JOSEPH/The Washington Post

Remember to
thank your
Command
for today's
copy of Stars
and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is
now printed and
delivered locally from
Kuwait, Iraq, and Qatar
giving you up-to-date
daily news, sports and
entertainment.

Without the assistance
of local commands,
your friends and fellow
soldiers would be
isolated without news
from home.

Contact
Stars and Stripes
circulation with
questions about
delivery at
49-6155-601-455
DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter
in the field, email
Iraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Wal-Mart immigrants: Testimony needed from some illegal immigrants arrested in a sweep of Wal-Mart stores last year will keep them in the country for now, according to a published report. Five Wal-Mart janitors who worked in New Jersey already have received permits that allow them to stay in the state. Four other immigrants have met with immigration officials and hope to receive similar documents, said Gilberto Garcia, a lawyer for several workers.

The nine immigrants have sued Wal-Mart in federal court, alleging the company conspired with contractors in a criminal enterprise that violated the civil rights and wage protections of immigrants who cleaned its stores.

World

West Bank withdrawal: Rabbis representing Jewish settlers accused Israel's internal security chief Monday of "incitement" after he warned that opponents of the planned dismantling of West Bank settlements are growing increasingly militant.

The withdrawal is part of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan of "unilateral disengagement" from the Palestinians.

Comments by Avi Dichter, the head of Israel's Shin Bet security service, caused an uproar Monday, dominating Israeli talk shows and news reports. The threat posed by Jewish extremists has been a sensitive issue in Israel since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in 1995 by an ultra-nationalist Jew opposed to his peace efforts with the Palestinians.

"This is an attempt to slander the rabbis," said Rabbi Yishai Baid, the secretary of the Yeshiva rabbis' council.

SARS outbreak: Top Hong Kong health officials reacted slowly and inadequately to SARS, according to a legislative report Monday that singled out several for blame but stopped short of recommending anyone be fired or punished.

The territory's leader, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, appeared ready to put the matter behind him, saying in a statement that lessons had been learned "from this humbling experience" and that Hong Kong has been reforming its health system to better confront new disease outbreaks.

Japanese abductee's American husband: Japan sent officials to Indonesia on Monday to arrange the reunion of a Japanese woman, who was abducted by North Korea but later freed, with the American husband and daughters she left behind in the communist country.

Hitomi Soga has been living apart from her family since North Korea allowed her return to Japan in October 2002, nearly a quarter-century after Northern agents abducted her to train spies in the Japanese language and culture.

Her husband, Charles Robert Jenkins, and their two daughters have refused to travel to Japan out of fear he might be extradited to the United States to face desertion charges. The former soldier allegedly abandoned his Army unit in 1965 and defected to North Korea.

Last week, Indonesia said it would host a reunion for the family — a proposal Jenkins

has accepted, according to Japanese officials. Indonesia has no extradition treaty with the United States.

Christmas market attack plot: Ten suspected terrorists, including a man believed to be a top Osama bin Laden lieutenant in Europe, will stand trial for the millennium plot to attack the Christmas market in the eastern French city of Strasbourg, judicial officials said Monday.

A German court last year convicted four Algerians for plotting to bomb the market near the Strasbourg Cathedral, but French investigators believe that others in France — all Algerians or French-Algerians — had a hand in the plan.

The 10 who have been under investigation in France include Mohamed Bensakria, an Algerian extradited from Spain in 2001 and the alleged bin Laden associate.

One of the 10 is at large and the object of an international arrest warrant, officials said.

Chechnya unrest: An ideological aide to Chechen rebel warlord Shamil Basayev surrendered to authorities on Monday, prosecutors said.

Abdula Aliyev, 72, arrived in the Daghestan capital, Makhachkala, from Turkey, and voluntarily turned himself in, said Ali Temirbekov, an assistant to the region's prosecutor. No other details were available, he said.

Aliyev has been wanted by Russian authorities since Basayev and the late Saudi-born rebel leader Khattab led Chechen rebels into neighboring Daghestan in summer 1999, with the aim of setting up an Islamic state.

Imprisoned Syrian lawyer: Hundreds of Syrian intellectuals and human rights activists have signed a petition organized by a Paris-based human rights group calling for the release of a Syrian Communist from detention, a Syrian rights activist said Monday.

day.

Anwar al-Bunni, a lawyer and member of the Human Rights Association in Syria who has signed the petition, said about 400 Syrian intellectuals and activists have added their signatures to the statement calling for the release of Abdul Aziz al-Kheir, a doctor who was detained 12 years ago on charges of belonging to the banned Communist Labor Party.

Al-Kheir was the editor-in-chief of the "Red Banner" newspaper for about four years before he was detained in 1992. He was sentenced by the State's Security Court to 22 years in prison and, according to al-Bunni, is the last member of the Communist Labor Party in Syrian jails.

Hong Kong democracy rally: A top Chinese official in Hong Kong attacked pro-democracy activists Monday for using "inappropriate" slogans during a mass rally last week.

Nevertheless, the head of Beijing's liaison office here, Gao Siren, said Hong Kong people will continue to enjoy the freedom of speech that they were guaranteed when Britain returned Hong Kong to China seven years ago, according to local radio reports.

But Gao said some residents were pushing things too far, for example by using the slogan "End the one-party dictatorship" — a reference to China's ruling Communist Party — during last week's march that demanded universal suffrage.

Tropical storm damage: Rescuers battled Monday against Taiwan's worst floods in 25 years, which have killed at least 21 people, left 14 others missing and stranded 10,000 villagers without fresh water and electricity in mountainous areas, officials said.

Some 200 engineers and workers at five hydroelectric plants also were stranded by raging floodwaters and mudslides, Taiwan's National Disaster Relief Center said.

Tropical storm Mindulle has pounded the island since the weekend.

Photos and stories from wire services



Charges against Winnie Mandela: Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, center, the former wife of Nelson Mandela, raises her fist as she leaves the high court in Pretoria, South Africa, on Monday, after winning her appeal against a four-year jail term for alleged theft and fraud. Pretoria's high court upheld all 43 charges of fraud from her conviction in April 2003 but rejected all 25 counts of theft, handing her a five-year suspended sentence.

Messages of Support

★ Stand strong, stand proud and know that the people whose life and liberty you are defending SUPPORT YOU. We are proud of you, we thank you and we love you. God Bless each and every one of you.

★ I am very proud to have such brave individuals fighting for us and our country. You're in my thoughts and prayers. I tip my hat raise and my glass to all military personnel, past, present and future. THANK YOU! Come home safe and soon. Susette

★ May God keep you safe as you defend our country. We are praying here in the US for your safe return soon. Thank you for all you are doing in the name of freedom!

Military families get orders to leave Bahrain

By ADNAN MALIK
The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S. military families will begin leaving Bahrain in the next few days following reports terrorists were planning attacks here, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet said Monday.

Cmdr. James Graybeal said the formal departure orders came late Sunday, two days after the Pentagon announced the first such mandatory evacuation from this longtime U.S. ally in the Gulf.

Graybeal said the orders affected 350 families, or about 650 people. They were relatives of servicemen or Defense Department staff, he said. He said earlier reports that nonessential staff also were being evacuated were incorrect.

"We are in the process of executing the departure, which will happen in the next few days," Graybeal said. Citing security, he refused to say how the families would travel or exactly where in the United States they were headed.

The U.S. 5th fleet is based in Bahrain,

Reports say terrorists planning attacks in nation, home of U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet

where the U.S. Navy has had a presence for more than 50 years.

On Thursday, the State Department cautioned Americans against traveling to Bahrain and advised Americans who live there to leave because of information that extremists were planning attacks in Bahrain.

The Pentagon said Friday it was withdrawing servicemen's families from Bahrain for at least 30 days. The State Department added Saturday it had authorized the voluntary departure of family members and nonemer-

Bahrain is linked by a 15-mile causeway to Saudi Arabia, which has seen a series of attacks on Americans and other Westerners living there.

gency employees of the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain.

The State Department has provided no details on the information it has about possible terror attacks on Americans in Bahrain.

Bahrain is linked by a 15-mile causeway to Saudi Arabia, which has seen a series of attacks on Americans and other Westerners living there. Some here have expressed fears that Saudi mili-

tants, under pressure from their security forces, might see Bahrain as an easier

place to attack Westerners.

The Saudi violence has been blamed on members of or sympathizers with al-Qaida, the network of anti-Western Muslim extremists blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. Al-Qaida has vowed to topple the Saudi royal family, accusing it of being too close to the United States and insufficiently Islamic.

The Bahraini king, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, also is close to the United States. Sheikh Hamad was one of the few Arab leaders to accept an invitation to last month's Group of Eight summit in the United States, where a U.S. initiative to encourage democratization in the Arab world was unveiled.

On Saturday, Sheikh Hamad said Bahrain was ready to send a naval force to help safeguard Iraqi territorial waters if asked by the new, U.S.-backed Iraqi government. Few other Arab leaders have been willing to commit troops for fear of being seen as supporting the U.S.-led war that toppled Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

U.S. hits Fallujah safehouse; at least 10 dead, Iraqis say

By DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military launched a coordinated air strike on a mujahadeen safehouse in the turbulent city of Fallujah on Monday, the military said. At least 10 people were killed, officials and witnesses said.

Ambulances raced to the eastern side of the city, where U.S. airstrikes have frequently targeted safehouses used by members of Jordanian militant Abu Musab Zarqawi's network. Rescue workers picked up body parts, witnesses said. The U.S. military had no immediate comment on the blast.

Four 500-pound bombs and two 1,000-pound bombs were dropped, the military said in a statement.

Ambulances raced to the east-

ern side of Fallujah, where U.S. airstrikes have frequently targeted safehouses used by members of Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Rescue workers picked up remains of the dead, witnesses said.

Dr. Diaa Jumaili of Fallujah Hospital said 10 bodies had arrived there, most of them dismembered.

U.S. forces have hit the area with four airstrikes since June 19, killing dozens. Al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant said to be connected to al-Qaida, is believed to be behind a series of coordinated attacks on police and security forces that killed 100 people only days before U.S. forces handed over power to an Iraqi interim government June 28.

The interim prime minister, meanwhile, said he would not in-



Kurds demonstrate in Halabja, Iraq, on Monday, demanding that Saddam Hussein and Ali Hassan al-Majid, also known as "Chemical Ali," be put to death for the gas attack that killed 5,000 people in 1988. Carrying photos of slain loved ones, the demonstrators said they want Saddam to be tried and executed in their town.

terfere with an Iraqi tribunal's right to decide whether Saddam Hussein and his top lieutenants should be executed on war crimes charges, the Arab language television station Al-Arabiya reported.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said he was willing to abide by whatever the court decides in Saddam's trial, which is not expected to begin for months.

"As for the execution, that is for the court to decide — so long as a decision is reached impartially and fairly," he said.

At Saddam's first court appearance Thursday, broadly outlined charges included the slaughter of Shiites during a 1991 uprising and a chemical weapons attack against Kurds in the northern city of Halabja.

Thousands of Kurds demonstrated Monday in Halabja, demanding that Saddam and one of his key lieutenants — Ali Hassan al-Majid, also known as "Chemical Ali" — be put to death for the gas attack that killed 5,000 people on March 16, 1988.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 858 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 636 died as a result of hostile action and 222 died of nonhostile causes. The military did not provide an update over the weekend.

The British military has reported 59 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 720 U.S. servicemen have died — 527 as a result of hostile action and 193 of nonhostile causes, according to the military as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Timothy R. Croeger, 21, Millington, Tenn., killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar Province; assigned to 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. James B. Huston Jr., 22, Umatilla, Ore.; died Friday in a vehicle accident while his unit was responding to hostile action in Iraq's Anbar Province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Militants: Marine alive

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An Iraqi militant group said Monday it had not killed a U.S. Marine it was holding captive, despite earlier reports he was dead, the Pan Arab television station Al-Jazeera reported.

In a statement sent to Al-Jazeera, the group, calling itself "Islamic Resistance," said it was holding Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun, a U.S. Marine of Lebanese heritage, but he was safe at a location they did not identify.

The United States reported Hassoun missing after he did not report for duty at his base in Iraq on June 20. On June 27, Al-Jazeera broadcast a video-

tape by "Islamic Resistance" showing Hassoun blindfolded along with a statement from militants threatening to kill him unless the United States released all Iraqis in "occupation jails."

Hassoun's fate was thrown into confusion Saturday when a group identifying itself as the Ansar al-Sunna Army, another militant group, posted a note on an Islamic Web site saying it had killed him. The group posted a denial of the killing Sunday on its own Web site.

"The denial gave us a big relief," Hassoun's brother, Sami, said by telephone from the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, where he, his father and several other relatives live.



AP photos

Above and below: Released prisoners embrace Monday in Ramadi, Iraq, after arriving from the Abu Ghraib prison on the outskirts of Baghdad. Some 300 detainees are being released Monday and Tuesday from the controversial prison.

U.S. authorities to free 300 detainees from Abu Ghraib

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — About 300 detainees will be released from Abu Ghraib prison this week, the latest group to be freed from the detention facility west of Baghdad, the U.S. military said Monday.

The detainees will be set free on Monday and Tuesday, Lt. Col. Barry Johnson told The Associated Press.

Some 5,300 other detainees remain in custody, Johnson said.

About 2,200 are held at Abu Ghraib, and 2,700 are being held at Camp Bucca near Umm Qasr in the far south of the country, he said.

Others are at smaller facilities around the country where they "are initially screened to determine whether they should be processed for detention or released," Johnson said.

Abu Ghraib was at the center of a scandal over allegations that American prison guards abused Iraqi detainees. The scandal came to light in April when photographs of hooded and naked prisoners were made public, provoking a torrent of international criticism.

U.S. authorities have released more than 2,000 detainees from Abu Ghraib in the last two months.



Hearing in death of Iraqi rescheduled for Germany

Statement names 1st AD captain suspected in murder

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

The Article 32 investigation for the Task Force 1st Armored Division captain charged with murder and dereliction of duty in the death of an Iraqi man has been adjourned until the 1st AD has redeployed to Germany.

The investigation, which is similar to a civilian court grand jury hearing, for Capt. Rogelio M. Maymulet will resume in late July, according to a statement released by the 1st AD.

The release publicly named Maymulet as the suspect for the first time and gave some details of the May 21 incident. The release said the hearing, which began June 25 and adjourned three days later, has been closed upon the request of Maymulet's defense team and the presentation of classified information.

The charges stem from the death of an Iraqi civilian who was

driving a car and was wounded during a high-speed chase near Kufa, Iraq, when U.S. forces shot into the car. The driver, one of two Iraqis wounded, was then shot and killed at close range, according to the release.

According to a previous 1st AD release, soldiers believed the vehicle was carrying suspected members of Muqtada al-Sadr's militia.

News reports have suggested the vehicle tried to run a check-point and then got in a crash after soldiers fired on it. The driver was reported as asking to be killed after being seriously injured.

Deployed troops have been discussing what they know about the case, and have had mixed feelings about the circumstances surrounding the murder charge, with some saying it was a mercy killing for the wounded Iraqi, while others said it could have been self-defense.

However, according to military

Web sites, neither military law, international law nor the Geneva Conventions allows a military member to kill a wounded civilian in a mercy kill. According to the law, military members are required to treat civilians with available care.

Some military members have said it would be best to have the hearing opened.

"There should be an open investigation so the public could make its own judgment," said Lance Cpl. Chris Weiner, of Fort Wayne, Ind., who is with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment out of Camp Fallujah.

He said Maymulet should be given the benefit of the doubt until there is evidence that he did do something wrong.

First AD officials said it would be inappropriate to comment further on the incident until more information becomes available.

Stars and Stripes reporter Charlie Coon contributed to this article.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigo@allmilitary.com

Specialist still has to answer to mom in Iraq as Ark. women serve together

BY CRISTINA RODRIGUEZ

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — In a pinch, Angela Carey could order her daughter back to her bunker.

For instance, in case of a mortar attack. Both serve with the 39th Infantry Brigade in Iraq: Sgt. Angela Carey is a front-line medic. Her daughter, 19-year-old Spc. Courtland Ball, is in training. Carey had been in Camp Cooke, north of Baghdad, for about two months when Ball landed there in early June.

"I've asked her, 'Do you ever have to pull rank?'"

Dr. Martin Carey, husband of Dr. Martin Carey, "She says, 'No, no, I'm a mom. But I always could if I needed to.'"

Relatives left behind in Little Rock say being together has made a difficult situation easier for mother and daughter.

It's a first in a combat zone for both.

"They're happy. They're not happy about being over there in the situation, but they're happy they've got somebody there to lean on," said Carey's daughter Chandra Albright, 21.

Jeremy Ball, Courtland's husband, said his wife relies on her mother for support.

"Her mom just being over there is pretty much the only way she can make it through," he said. "Being able to see her helps more than anyone can imagine."

Angela Carey, who has three daughters and a

6-year-old stepson, joined the National Guard nine years ago. The weekend work made her feel she was doing good, her husband said.

Martin Carey, an emergency room doctor with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, said Ball saw the change in her mother and sought the same for herself. Ball joined the National Guard when she was 17 and a junior in high school.

"I think being in the Guard gave her grounding, discipline and a belief in herself," he said. "She's a different person. She's grown and matured immensely."

Martin Carey said he feels better knowing his wife is helping her daughter adjust to Iraq. "You have such a steep learning curve there. You learn things so fast," he said.

Mother and daughter live within walking distance of each other, and often need to watch movies or eat together. Martin Carey said his wife worries about her daughter in their daily phone conversations.

"My wife's a mom and she doesn't want her daughter put in danger," he said. "It may be OK for her to do it, but she doesn't want her daughter put in the same kind of danger."

Angela Carey, who has three daughters and a



Sgt. Angela Carey

Kuwait hosts father, son reunion

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Many fathers are proud to have their children follow in their footsteps. For one father here, his son not only followed, he also caught up.

The father-son duo of Willie J. Butler Sr. and Jr. not only share the same name, but also the same rank. Both are specialists — the father in the Army National Guard, the son in the Army Reserve.

And they were able to spend a month together at Camp Arifjan before the father flew back to the States at the end of last month. Butler Sr. joined the Army in 1979 and served until 1987. He said he returned to the service in 2002 to make a little extra money and work toward his retirement.

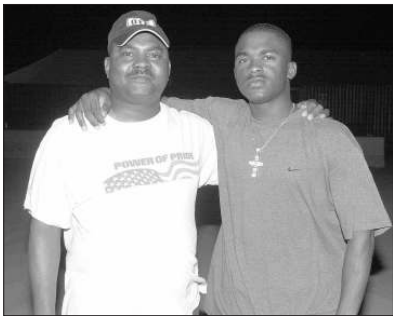
His unit, the 878th Engineer Battalion based in Augusta, Ga., had been serving in Iraq since June 2003 and came to Camp Arifjan in mid-May before heading home.

The younger Butler has been in for nearly three years. He is stationed in Kuwait with the 450th Ordnance Company out of Fort Stewart, Ga., until at least the end of this year, he said.

The elder Butler said he heard his son was stationed at Camp Arifjan in March. He found out in April that his unit was heading here, and wrote his son to tell him they would soon see each other. After arriving, Butler Sr. said it was being in the right place at the right time that helped him find his son.

"Me and one of my sergeants saw a guy [wearing the patch of his son's unit], so we asked him if he knew my son and he took us to his tent," Butler Sr. said.

"I was in there ironing my clothes when he walked in," the younger Butler said. "I was shocked. He almost choked me to death from



the hug."

After the reunion, the two saw each other daily. They either sat down to eat breakfast or dinner together or took time in the evening to hang out and chat. Even though he worked all day on June 20, Butler Jr. made sure to find his dad that evening to wish him a happy Father's Day.

Because of a slower rate of promotion in the National Guard, Butler Jr. said he would soon pass his dad and become a sergeant.

"I'm going to take full advantage of that," joked the son, who shares an apartment with

his father when they're not deployed. But dad quickly countered that he also should pick up the rank soon.

Even though Butler Sr. has returned home, he will still be able to spend time with his son. Butler Jr. is to fly to the States this month for 15 days of rest and recuperation.

And when the two part and Butler Jr. returns to Kuwait, the father said he can't help being concerned about his son's safety.

"I'm going to worry about him, but I'm putting him in the hands of the Lord," he said.

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmermanf@pstrips.osd.mil

Spcs. Willie J. Butler Sr., left, and Willie J. Butler Jr. spent quality father-and-son time together on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, as the elder Butler's unit passed through the base on its way back to the States. The younger Butler said his unit will probably be in Kuwait the rest of the year.

FRED ZIMMERMAN
Stars and Stripes

USO now in Qatar

The United Services Organizations opened its newest facility July 4 on Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar during a holiday celebration on base, according to a USO press release.

The new center is the 123rd to open worldwide and the second in the region. A USO center opened in Kuwait in December 2003.

The Qatar center is near the Fighter Management Pass Program office, which hosts troops from Iraq and Afghanistan for four days of rest and recuperation. The USO expects about 1,200 servicemembers to use the facility each day.

The center has a large-screen television, game stations and a cafe.

The center offers "a friendly and familiar place to troops serving far from home and loved ones," Edward A. Powell, USO World Headquarters president and chief operating officer, said in the release.

"The USO's tradition is to be wherever troops are located around the world, and opening this center helps us to continue that tradition."

From staff reports

Nobody tells you your story the way we do.

When troops deploy, our reporters go with them. Contact them today by emailing iraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil.

Reporter Nancy Montgomery tells your story from your perspective.

Your Stripes. Your Story. Get it Daily.

STARS AND STRIPES
circulation@stripes.osd.mil

Photo by Anas Dukami/Stars and Stripes

'The strife is o'er, the battle done'

Chaplain blesses fallen warriors upon return to States

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT

The Washington Post

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. — Air Force Chaplain Robert Cannon plans to begin the Fourth of July holiday the way he starts most mornings: showing up for work around 7:30 a.m., when the mortuary is quiet and still and he can use the time to write the words he'll speak to God.

On most days, the prayers he pens are for the country's fallen warriors who arrive here from the front lines in flag-draped coffins.

If he's lucky, Cannon will have a few hours' notice before the dead arrive. And sometimes there will even be a few details available beyond name, rank and religious background that will help shape his compositions.

But most often he knows little of the dead for whom he says words of blessing, other than that their bodies have traveled a long way, from Iraq or Afghanistan, crossing Europe and the Atlantic to this base where since 1955 the remains of more than 50,000 of the country's war dead have been processed, identified and prepared for burial.

And so Cannon says a short, simple prayer, hoping he's chosen words they'd like, words that honor them.

Since the war in Iraq began last year, there has been a constant stream of military cargo planes carrying dead service-members home.

More than 850 U.S. troops have been killed in the conflict, and Cannon has been there to meet many of them, day and night.

But whether it's 3 in the morning or 3 in the afternoon, the military's solemn and choreographed ritual of welcoming the dead home is the same.

Cannon, one of two chaplains assigned to the mortuary, boards the plane with a small party that usually consists of high-ranking officers from different

branches of service.

After he says his encomium over the coffins, the honor guard — similar to the kind used in former president Ronald Reagan's recent funeral — takes the remains into the mortuary.

Service members salute.

Flags flap in the wind, and the only other sounds are footsteps on the tarmac. Even the honor guard's orders are issued in a hushed tone.

"The silence itself is profound," Cannon said.

Since May, when the Department of Defense changed its policy that barred families from viewing the event, only one family has chosen to come to witness the coffin being brought off the plane and put into a hearse.

Gregg White, whose 19-year-old son, Marine Lance Cpl. Russell White, was killed in Afghanistan, said in an interview that the family "wanted to welcome our son back to American soil."

The transfer took no longer than 10 minutes, but the family, from Delaware, was glad it went, he said.

"I just felt total peace and silence," he said. "It was powerful, and it was comforting."

The media have not been allowed to cover the arrivals of coffins here for 13 years, which has stirred controversy since

"It is our deep and sacred honor to welcome them home once again. ... Bless their fellow Marines with whom they served. Protect and guard them. May the bravery of these Marines strengthen our resolve in the difficult work of laying the foundation for peace in our time."

Air Force Chaplain Robert Cannon
over recently arrived coffins

war began.

But to Cannon it matters little whether the rite is public.

"Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is looking," he said. "It's not political. It's what we do for someone who has given their life."

The moment, he said, is among him and the dead and God. Although it may be a solemn, even beautiful, occasion, it is no spectacle, he said.

Cannon, who is Catholic, says the prayers for those he knows are Christian.

If the dead are Jewish or Muslim, officials at the base call in a rabbi or imam.

"Lord God, we stand humbly before these valiant Marines," he said in a recent service aboard the plane.

"It is our deep and sacred honor to welcome them home once again. ... Bless their fellow Marines with whom they served. Protect and guard them."

May the bravery of these Marines strengthen our resolve in the difficult work of laying the foundation for peace in our time.

Inside the mortuary, Cannon stands off to the side while the remains are prepared. He reads the psalms softly, not much more than a whisper. His presence, he hopes, is "a visible reminder of the holy."

Sometimes the dead can be identified only by DNA, dental records or fingerprints.

And so he keeps an eye on the workers who occasionally falter when the remains are removed from the body bags and move through the mortuary, where they are checked for unexploded ordnance, embalmed and touched up for funeral.

Cannon also provides counsel for the mortuary workers.

An Air Force reservist, Cannon, known by most here as "Father Bob," is a lieutenant colonel who was called to active duty in February 2003.

It was shortly before the Iraq war started, and military officials called for additional chaplains. With the permission of his bishop, he left his parish in Venice, Fla.

At 52, he has short, graying hair and pale blue eyes normally framed by gold-rimmed glasses.

His voice is nurturing and neutral — and it's been used in many capacities since he's been activated.

He's consoled grieving families and counseled members of the Air Force seeking help. During Sunday services, he delivers a homily at the base's church.

And although he has spent much of his time on active duty at Dover, he also has visited other military bases.

He has even officiated a half-dozen funerals at Arlington National Cemetery.

In September, he is scheduled to go to Iraq, where he will counsel service members in the field, hoping he won't see too much of the violence that has made Dover such a busy place.

At Dover, he reports on the news.

But occasionally he catches reports on television that detail the deaths of service members in Iraq and thinks, "I'll be praying for them."



Mahmoud al-Sudani, representative of radical Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr in Baghdad, said that a cease-fire remains between al-Sadr's militia and U.S. forces, despite comments by al-Sadr on Sunday.

Aide clarifies resistance call by al-Sadr

By NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The spokesman for militant Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr tempered threats to continue fighting Monday, saying his movement only planned to wage "peaceful resistance" against the interim government.

Al-Sadr issued a statement Sunday from his office in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, calling the new interim Iraqi government "illegitimate" and pledging "to continue resisting oppression and occupation to our last drop of blood."

But Sadr's spokesman in Baghdad, Mahmoud al-Soudani, called a news conference Monday to clarify that the statement was not a call to arms. He said that many of al-Sadr's supporters in Baghdad had begun taking up arms again and he needed to correct their misperceptions.

"We are still committed to the cease-fire," al-Soudani said.

Before Sunday, al-Sadr had made conciliatory statements to the government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, a fellow Shiite, and members of his movement had suggested they might transform his al-Mahdi militia into a political party.

Al-Sadr has made contradictory statements in the past. His al-Mahdi militia battled American troops for nearly eight weeks leaving hundreds of people dead in the Shiite heartland until a cease-fire was reached last month. Sadr said Sunday that there is no truce with the occupier and those who cooperate with it.

Al-Mahdi fighters accepted cease-fires in most Shiite areas including the Baghdad district of Sadr City after suffering huge losses at the hands of the Americans. But al-Soudani said the militia can only be disbanded with the approval of its religious leaders or if all foreign troops leave the country.

Allawi had announced that all militias should disband by the end of 2005. Al-Soudani did reiterate Sadr's statement that "the interim government is illegitimate." Although Iraq regained sovereignty last Monday, about 160,000 foreign troops, most of them Americans, remain here under a U.N. resolution to help the new government restore security.



MAVIN JOSEPH/Washington Post

Air Force Chaplain Robert Cannon has received the coffins of many soldiers killed in the Iraq war as they arrive at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. Since May, when the Department of Defense changed its policy that barred families from viewing the event, only one family has chosen to come to witness the coffin being brought off the plane and put into a hearse.



Deploying?

Keep up-to-date with daily news, sports, entertainment, comics and more with Stars and Stripes.

**Talk to your unit about
downrange delivery today.**

STARS AND STRIPES.
Your Hometown Newspaper

3 Iraqis reportedly seeking asylum

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Three Iraqi men found last week in the back of a truck entering an American base in England are seeking asylum and are not terrorists, a local newspaper reported over the weekend.

The three were found as a truck carrying aircraft parts tried to enter RAF Mildenhall on June 29, according to the East Anglia Daily Times.

The British Immigration Service is currently interviewing the men, who are not considered a threat, although they probably entered the country illegally.

"Security fears kidnapping the men were quickly eliminated," Patrick Nealon, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence police told the newspaper.

"It was clear the men had not eaten for some time and appeared to have been traveling for several days."

On the same day, eight men were detained at nearby Barton Mills after a member of the public saw them climb from a truck on the A11 highway. That group, four Iraqis and four Iranians, also have claimed asylum, the paper reported. Two men have been arrested in that incident on suspicion of conveying illegal immigrants, the paper added.

Armed guards at RAF Mildenhall, home of the 100th Air Refueling Wing, found the three Iraqis during a routine vehicle inspection. The truck had traveled from Germany and the driver was thought to be the carrier of his human cargo, the MOD police said.

"[U.S. Air Force] staff treated them very well and gave them food and water before they were handed over to immigration officials," Nealon said.



CASSANDRA KARDEKE/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A bunch of 4-year-olds help break ground for the new \$3.6 million child development center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany. The 221st Base Support Battalion's new 26,000-square-foot CDC will provide the latest in child-care facilities and accommodate up to 300 children.

Ground broken in Wiesbaden for child development center

Stars and Stripes

The military community in Wiesbaden, Germany, will soon get new child development and fitness centers.

Children wearing hard hats and wielding shovels assisted Army officials Thursday in breaking ground on the \$3.6 million child development center, according to a release from the 221st Base Support Battalion, based in Wiesbaden.

"We've asked those who will benefit most from this new center to help us break ground today," Lt. Col. Christopher Francis, BSB commander, said in the release.

He said the center will accommodate 300 children, almost doubling the total child-care capacity of all the BSB's centers.

Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles, commander of the 3rd Corps Support Command, based in Wiesbaden, said the center would help troops, too.

"You know what they say, 'When mama ain't

happy, ain't nobody happy,'" Boles was quoted in the release.

"You just don't know how hard it is on a deployed soldier when he calls home and his wife's had a bad day or the kids have had a bad day or she says she can't get child care."

When a soldier calls and his wife is happy and the kids are well cared for, his morale is heightened and he can keep his mind on his mission."

The 26,000-square-foot center will include a reception area, administrative space, an isolation room, staff lounge, commercial grade kitchen and a laundry. There will also be infant space with a separate crawl area, toddler rooms and rooms for school-aged children.

It is planned for completion by December 2005.

The base also broke ground on a \$12.5 million fitness center, located near the airfield dining facility. It will include a gym, racquetball courts, weight room, track, bleachers and locker rooms.

It is scheduled to open in the summer of 2006.

"We've asked those who will benefit most from this new center to help us break ground today."

Lt. Col. Christopher Francis
221st Base Support Battalion commander

Medical group marks 87 years

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — The Army's Medical Service Corps members sometimes feel like an invisible part of the military health care team.

But these hospital administrators, logistics experts and a variety of other medical professionals are key to the operation of every military medical operation.

"We're responsible for an overwhelming amount of details and responsibilities. We're the unseen people that make a lot of things work," said Col. C. David Vesely, chief of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's optometry clinic.

Last month, the 52 Medical Service Corps members at Landstuhl — just a few of the 17,000 troops who work at the hospital — got a moment in the spotlight. The Corps turned 87 years old. They even got a cake.

The mission of the Corps has gotten more important since Operation Enduring Freedom turned up the operations tempo a notch. The Corps has extended its role in tracking patients, and managing casualty evacuation from the war zone and their movement back to the United States, among other things, said Maj. Tarra Taylor, chief of Landstuhl's Patient Administration Division. It's also working on a paperless medical records system that will improve patient tracking, she said.

Originally part of the Apothecary Corps in the Revolutionary War, the precursor of the Corps had its first heyday during the Civil War, when it began a system to evacuate wounded soldiers from the battlefield.

After that war, the corps was disbanded. In World War I, it was formed again as the Sanitary and Ambulance Corps. That was on June 17, 1917 — 87 years ago.

After World War II, Congress enacted legislation officially naming it the Medical Service Corps.



Vesely



Taylor

Warner reiterates: No need for draft

BY WILLIAM C. MANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is forcing thousands of discharged soldiers back into the military, but that does not mean the United States needs to reinstate the draft, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said Sunday.

"I can tell you the all-volunteer forces worked" when former President Nixon ended conscription during the Vietnam War, said Sen. John Warner, who was Nixon's secretary of the Navy in 1973.

Opposition to perceived inequities of the draft spawned much of the early opposition to that war, due largely to defects that kept students and some draft-eligible men with political connections.

"We cannot bring back a draft now and

make some young men and women go into uniform and not bring in a whole lot of others to do different tasks," said Warner, R-Va., on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The cost of benefits would be prohibitive, he said. What has brought up the question again is the Pentagon's order last week to recall to active duty 5,674 members of the Individual Ready Reserve, soldiers who have served specified tours of duty but have years remaining in their enlistment contracts.

After that announcement, Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash., a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said, "If there was any doubt that this administration was conducting a pseudo-draft, this call-up should dispel that doubt."

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry has made similar complaints about the administration's use of Reserve and National Guardsmen and a device called "stop loss," which prevents soldiers from leaving when their obligations end. "They have effectively used a stop-loss policy as a backdoor draft," Kerry said last month.

Chief among administration opponents of a

draft has been Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

In January 2003, three months before U.S. troops invaded Iraq, Rumsfeld strongly opposed legislation by Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., to abolish the Selective Service System and establish a system in which all Americans and legal permanent residents, age 18 to 26, would be subject to compulsory military or alternative civilian service.

Rumsfeld said draftees were of "no value, no advantage" to the military because they served for short periods of time. He later apologized to veterans after Rangel and other Democrats criticized his characterization.

Millions of Americans have served compulsory military service during U.S. history. Under the Selective Service laws, men still have to register within a month of their 18th birthday.

Warner said the problem with reinstatement of the draft is that it quickly would become "one of the most enormously expensive programs, where we're giving the GI Bill to military people and to those who are brought in to perform other tasks."



Warner



War Is Tough on Families

Military life has enough challenges without worrying about how your loved ones will contact you... especially during times of conflict. I know, because I grew up in a military family and served as a Navy Admiral.

You can count on the American Red Cross to help you wherever you go. Whether you're at sea, or on an installation, we can help your loved ones back home get messages to you, or from you, in case of emergency. We can also help you through counseling and other needed assistance.

The Red Cross was there for my family, and we'll be there for yours. In fact, we support thousands of military families each year.

For more information, or to learn how you can help, please contact your local Red Cross or visit www.redcross.org. Thank you.



Marsha Evans
President and CEO, American Red Cross
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

IN THE STATES



President Bush makes remarks on the steps of the West Virginia state capitol in Charleston, W.Va.

Bush visits W.Va., defends war in Iraq

BY PETE YOST

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Defending the war in Iraq, President Bush said on Independence Day that America is safer because Saddam Hussein is in a prison cell.

"Our immediate task in battle fronts like Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere is to capture or kill the terrorists ... so we do not have to face them here at home," Bush told a cheering crowd outside the West Virginia Capitol.

Regarding Saddam, the deposed Iraqi president, Bush said: "Because we acted, the dictator, the brutal tyrant, is sitting in a prison cell."

Two Bush opponents, taken out of the crowd in restraints by police, said they were told they couldn't be there because they were wearing shirts that said they opposed the president.

Supporters of Bush's presumed opponent in November's election, Sen. John Kerry, attended a picnic across the street.

West Virginia, which went to Bush in 2004, is considered a pivotal state in the 2004 race, its five electoral votes up for grabs. Making a pitch for votes in a state where 200,000 veterans comprise 15 percent of the population, Bush praised veterans for "setting a good example for those who have followed ... in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Bush. Thirty-six per-

cent of all male West Virginians fought in World War II, 16 percent in Korea and 20 percent in Vietnam.

In his ninth visit to West Virginia since taking office, Bush also thanked National Guard members for their service in a state where 77 percent of the 6,200 National Guard troops have been activated since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, including every Army Guard unit except the band and an aviation detachment at in Wheeling.

The Bush administration has come under increasing criticism after a staff report from the commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks found little evidence of collaboration between the ousted Iraqi leader and Osama bin Laden's terrorist organization, al-Qaida.

Kerry still mum about running mate

BY LIZ SIDOTI

The Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry carefully dodged questions about his search for a running mate, even as he campaigned with one potential vice presidential candidate, Gov. Tom Vilsack.

Kerry is expected to name a No. 2 for the party ticket before the Democratic National Convention opens in Boston on July 26, and an announcement could come as early as this week.

Although Vilsack rode on Kerry's bus Sunday, the final leg of the senator's weekend tour of Midwestern towns, the two were hardly shoulder to shoulder at campaign stops. And, both avoided talk about the vice presidential search.

Asked whether he had reached a decision, Kerry said: "I made a decision — to get a drink and eat some lunch." Vilsack also ignored shouted questions. Ending his three-day push to court rural voters in the heartland, Kerry continued to stress his "conservative values" as he sought to connect with the GOP-leaning bloc. He

stressed his personal position on abortion in an interview published Sunday in The Telegraph Herald in Dubuque.

"I oppose abortion, personally," he told the newspaper. "I don't like abortion. I believe life does begin at conception. But I can't take my Catholic belief, my article of faith, and legislate it on a Protestant or a Jew or an atheist ... who doesn't share it. We have separation of church and state in the United States of America." Campaign aides say they believe the interview marked the first time Kerry specifically said he believed life begins at conception.



Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., gets a tour of a farm from local children in Dyersville, Iowa.

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ hi, am trying to find a way to become a pen pal or email buddy to anyone in the service. am not having any luck with it. am 37 years old, single mom of a 3 year old, from a small town in south carolina. if you can help me, please let me know! val

★ I pray every day for your safety and that you will be able to come home soon.

★ J. HEALEY- I've tried to locate you to make sure you are doing o.k. I hope your doing well and managing to stay out of trouble! I am sure you are doing a great job. Best of luck while you are there. Stay safe and return home soon. Love, Amanda

★ To all the brave men and women in the Middle-East...please be assured that we are all praying for your safe and speedy return...if there was any doubt in our minds that this invasion should never have taken place, it has truly been justified with all the atrocities we have seen and heard in the last few days...May God bless you, guide you, protect you and bring you all back home where you will be received with the greatest respect and honor...

J. A. Rosas/Kuwait if you can hear me...your dad, JSRosas loves you with all his heart and we keep you in our thoughts and prayers...God bless you... Awilda Aponte & Fa.

★ Dear Jerrell we are praying for your safe return home. Myself, Carl, Mom,Dad, Nohy, Sierra, Gwen, Tricia and Shari says "HELLO", and we think about you everyday and hope you are receiving all our mail and please stay safe and always remember God is in charge. We LOVE you every much Love Mom.

★ Dear James/daddy, We love you and miss you very much! We are so proud of you. Hurry home so we can go to Disneyworld! Love, Brandi, Kaitlyn and Rachel

★ To all of the US service personnel. On behalf of my family, we wish to thank you. May god keep you out of harms way. Goodspeed, Mary from New Hampshire

★ THANK YOU! For your sacrifice, for your hard work, for you efforts! We are all behind you!!!! We are praying for you and your families! May you have safety, success, and victory! G. Doshier, New Market, IN USA

★ Hi TreVar, We are all here at home missing y'all and wishing you well. Please contact us as soon as you can. Tell Farari, Buddy Lee, and Chris we send love. We are counting the days until all of you are back at home safe. Keep the faith! Love Mom

I am a small and precious child, my dad's been sent to fight... The only place I'll see his face, is in my dreams at night. He will be gone too many days For my young mind to keep track. I may be sad, but I am proud... My daddy's got your back.

I am a caring mother. My son may go to war... My mind is filled with worries that I have never known before. Everyday I try to keep my thoughts from turning black. I may be scared, but I am proud... My son has got your back.

I am a strong and loving wife, with a husband soon to go. There are times I'm terrified I see his name never know. I bite my lip, and force a smile as I watch my husband pack... My heart may break, but I am proud. My husbands got your back...

I am a soldier, Serving Proudly and Standing Tall. I fight for my country, and miss my sweetening this call. I do my job while knowing, the thanks it sometimes lacks. Say a prayer that I'll come home. It's me who's got your back...

May God Bless You Brave Young Soldiers
Becky - Fremont, California

America marks birthday with extravaganzas

MADISON J. GRAY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fireworks lit up the Manhattan skyline and thundered throughout the city as what was billed as the largest pyrotechnic display in the country shattered the Statue of Liberty in bursts of color.

Thousands of New Yorkers and out-of-towners converged near the city's waterways to catch a glimpse of the more than 36,000 shells exploding in concert Sunday.

The night also featured a tribute to the Statue of Liberty and performances by Aretha Franklin, Sheryl Crow and "American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino.

Security downtown was tight as thousands of police officers patrolled the area. No trouble was reported.

Neal Richardson, 53, of Poughkeepsie, said he felt safe among the throng. "I enjoyed watching the fireworks," he said.

"Terrorism really didn't concern me." For the fourth straight year, a rail-thin competitor outperformed much beefier opponents to take the title in Nathan's Famous hot dog eating contest.

Takeru Kobayashi of Nagano, Japan — just 5-foot-7 and 132 pounds — wolfed down 53½ wieners in 12 minutes, shattering his own world record. His nearest challenger gulped down only 38.

"I could have done a lot, a lot more," Kobayashi said through an interpreter.

Torrential rain over Washington didn't

upstage the concert, "A Capitol Fourth," on the West Lawn of the Capitol or the annual fireworks, which went on as scheduled.

People wanting to enter the Mall had to pass through one of 19 checkpoints and have their belongings inspected. Fourteen closed-circuit television cameras were trained on the downtown area.

At Philadelphia's Independence Hall, Afghan leader Hamid Karzai was awarded the Philadelphia Liberty Medal, given each July 4 by the nonprofit, nonpolitical Philadelphia Foundation to recognize leadership in the pursuit of freedom. The medal's \$100,000 prize will go to support Afghan orphans, he said.

In Pittston, Pa., a misfire during the grand finale of a fireworks display showered a waterfront crowd with debris, injuring dozens of people, three seriously.

Two employees of Schaefer Pyrotechnics Inc., which ran the show over the Susquehanna River, were injured, one with burns and one with burns and leg lacerations. All victims were treated and released by Monday morning, a hospital spokeswoman said.

In Texas, an estimated 25,000 people attended Willie Nelson's 31st annual Fourth of July picnic concert in Fort Worth that also featured Los Lonely Boys, Merle Haggard, Ray Price and Asleep at the Wheel. In the 93 degree weather, an estimated 125 people were treated for heat-related ailments.

Festivities opened in Boston with a morn-



In honor of the Fourth of July, fireworks illuminate the sky over the lower Manhattan skyline Sunday, as seen from the Brooklyn Promenade in the New York borough of Brooklyn.

ing parade and flag-raising that also served as a sort of kickoff of a series of events leading to the Democratic National Convention July 26-29.

The Boston Pops concert and fireworks celebration on Boston's Esplanade was one of many Independence Day observances

held under cloudless skies across the state.

"The Fourth of July has special meaning in Boston," Mayor Tom Menino said to the crowd gathered at City Hall for the city's annual celebration.

"Our country and everything we stand for started right here in these streets."

Holiday visitors crowd Reagan library's exhibit of funeral images

The Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — An exhibit displaying items and images from President Reagan's funeral opened Sunday at the hilltop library where he is buried.

Close to 6,000 people visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, some dressed in red, white and blue for the Fourth of July

opening of "Mourning in America," said Duke Blockwood, executive director of the library and the Reagan foundation.

Reagan died June 5 after battling Alzheimer's disease for a decade.

The new exhibit, on display through Nov. 11, draws upon the public outpouring of sympathy for the Reagan family and the elabo-

rate funeral events held in Southern California and Washington.

"I'm just really gratified to see so many people out here, because it's the Fourth, because it's Ronald Reagan and because he meant so much," said Bill Bailey, adding that he came Sunday to pay his respects.

Among the items on display Sunday were dozens of photo-

graphs; the black velvet-draped bier that supported Reagan's mahogany casket in Simi Valley; riding boots that were placed backward in the stirrups of the riderless horse led to the Capitol on June 9 and the flag that flew over the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan on June 5.

Visitors can also watch a video that includes images and televi-

sion footage of the funeral events.

The library has also been deluged with more than 15,000 letters as well as 162,000 condolence e-mails to its Web site, said spokeswoman Melissa Giller. Archivists are trying to determine what to do with the flower bouquets, posters, letters, flags and stuffed animals being stored in the library's basement.

Ariz. fires threaten observatory, homes

By AMANDA LEE MYERS

The Associated Press

SAFFORD, Ariz. — Two wild fires on a mountain in the southeast corner of Arizona threatened an observatory that houses the \$120 million Large Binocular Telescope, one of the world's most powerful optical instruments.

One of the fires had grown to 6,215 acres by Monday morning, barely larger than it was Sunday, and it was less than a mile southwest of the \$200 million-plus Mount Graham International Observatory.

"It's threatened, but I think it's defensible," said Duane Archuleta, an operations chief for the fire management team.

The observatory, encompassing 8.6 acres on Mount Graham's 10,470-foot Emerald Peak, is surrounded by 200-foot-wide "defensible space" and has a sprinkler system that will be turned on if flames come within a quarter mile.

That lightning-started wildfire and a nearby blaze that had



Smoke from Mount Graham's Gibson Fire, the smaller of two fires near Safford, Ariz., fills the sky as seen from Fort Thomas, Ariz., on Saturday. The fire could threaten communications towers on Mt. Graham. A second fire on the south side of the mountain threatens an astronomical observatory and campgrounds.

grown to 6,588 acres prompted the evacuation of the observatory and 85 cabins on the mountain Friday.

The flames were about three

miles away from the communications of Turkey Flat and Columbine.

"I can't hardly stand it to think there's a fire up there," said

Verna Colvin, whose family owns a cabin at Turkey Flat. "It won't be the same if it burns up. It's like my life is going."

However, there was no immediate threat to any homes, said Jennifer Plyler, a fire spokeswoman. "They have some time," she said.

About 1,000 firefighters aided by 10 helicopters, 12 bulldozers and two C-130 air tankers were fighting the fires.

One firefighter was hospitalized for treatment of heat exhaustion.

The fires were a few miles apart and were expected to join in the next couple of days, said Paul Summerfelt, a deputy incident commander.

Plyler said fire management teams hoped to have the fires fully contained by July 27.

Elsewhere in Arizona, the threat posed to the city of Payson by a 79,500-acre wildfire was lessened after crews strengthened protection lines near the forest community, officials said Sunday.

The fire, which started June 24, was 10 percent contained.

Stem cell filibuster

WASHINGTON — Sen. Orrin Hatch, a Republican supporter of embryonic stem cell research, said Sunday there is wide support in the Senate to ease the Bush administration's restrictive policy.

Hatch said supporters have more than the 60 votes needed to end a filibuster, but he's unsure whether Congress would act "in this hot political atmosphere."

The Utah senator predicted on CNN's "Late Edition" that the administration and supporters of the research would reach a compromise that would include moral and ethical standards set by the National Institutes of Health.

He predicted countries around the world would follow NIH standards, including a ban on cloning.

Bush signed an executive order in August 2001 that limited federal help to financing stem cell research on 78 embryonic stem cell lines then in existence. Because day-old embryos are destroyed when stem cells are extracted, the process is opposed by some conservatives who link it to abortion.



Gloria Brunson holds a bottle of her favorite mustard, French's Classic Yellow, on the porch of her home on the corner of Mustard Street in Rochester, N.Y.

French's celebrates mustard milestone

BY BEN DOBBIN
The Associated Press

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — In a pink house on the corner of Mustard Street, Gloria Brunson has no doubt which mustard she prefers on her potato salad.

"I don't know any other mustard but French's," she declares. "It brings out the flavor better. When I buy generic stuff, my family won't eat it. We always come back to what we like best."

The makers of French's, a bright yellow, creamy, tart-flavored condiment that made its debut alongside the hot dog at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, could hardly put it better as they celebrate the centennial of the world's best-selling mustard.

But consider Brunson's vista. Each time the 51-year-old day-care worker steps onto her porch, looming above her atop a yellow-brick building a few hundred feet away is the word "French's" in big white letters on a red pennant — a surviving symbol of a bygone era.

Now owned by British conglomerate Reckitt Benckiser Inc., the "Classic Yellow" that set the standard for American-style mustard was bottled by the billions at One Mustard Street from 1912 to 1973.

The R.T. French Co., named after the family that brought the

first prepared mustard to the American market, finally pulled up roots here in 1987. Its mustards, which also come these days in spicy brown and lowfat, oniony flavors, are made in Springfield, Mo.

The classic variety, originally called French's Cream Salad, emerged at a world's fair that introduced a prodigious line of long-lasting food innovations: the ice cream cone, peanut butter and ice cream, plus two of mustard's best companions — the submarine sandwich and the hot dog.

Spice merchant Richard Timothy French's sons, George and Francis, wanted to create a mustard that was light and creamy in consistency and color and had true mustard flavor — unlike the harsh or granular brown mustards used sparingly or in cooking in Germany and France.

"It must be mild," wrote the younger brother, Francis, "for I believe that these hot mustards are used sparingly not because they are hot, but because people do not like them."

Today, up to 90 percent of French's mustards are sold in North America, and sales are creeping up an average of 2 percent to 3 percent a year. But Classic Yellow's global appeal is still spreading in places like Japan and Greece, and it is Britain's fastest-growing mustard favorite.

Mass. smoking ban

BOSTON — A statewide indoor smoking ban covering workplaces, bars and restaurants went into effect Monday throughout Massachusetts, and public health officials said they plan to aggressively pursue violators.

Smokers face a \$100 fine for each violation, and business owners who allow smoking in their establishment face fines of up to \$300.

Jan Lang, chief of staff of the state Department of Public Health, said he expected 95 percent voluntary compliance by Labor Day.

"We consider this a tremendous victory for the health of workers," Lang said of the new law. "This is a tremendous step forward."

Massachusetts joins five other states — New York, Connecticut, Maine, Delaware and California — with statewide bans.

The ban, enacted by the Legislature earlier this year and signed June 18 by Gov. Mitt Romney, prohibits smoking in all workplaces, restaurants and bars in the state. Private clubs and cigar bars are exempt.

Workplace smoking bans already had been adopted in about 100 cities and towns in Massachusetts, including Boston.

Some people started going to bars in Quincy after Boston and other surrounding towns banned smoking, but Jim March, manager at The Fours in Quincy, said he expected that will change now the ban covers the whole state.

From The Associated Press

Divorcing couples add pets to list of battles

BY DAHLEEN GLANTON
Chicago Tribune

ATLANTA — Lynn Goldstein Nichols still has nightmares about Beanie and Kacey, the two cats she lost to her ex-husband in a divorce four years ago. And to this day, she says, it hurts more to think about her lost pets than the 30 days she spent in jail for disobeying a judge's order to give them up.

"If I could, I would spend all my time crusading to change the laws that say these living creatures that spend their life with you are nothing more than property," said Nichols, 54, of Louisville.

"If your pets are like your children and you get a divorce, they end up getting divided up like pets and pans. It's devastating."

With so many marriages in America ending in divorce, couples aren't just fighting over the kids or who gets the china and the king-size bed anymore. A growing number are squaring off over who will end up with the family pet.

In the past decade, there has been a proliferation of pet-custody cases, with judges forced to decide what will happen to the family dog, cat or even the parakeet when a couple splits.

Though pets generally are considered personal property under most state laws, pet owners don't always feel that way. As some couples decide to hold off on having children, experts say, they can become emotionally attached to their pets and unwilling to give them up without a fight.

In a country with an estimated 160 million pet owners, some will spend hundreds, even thousands, of dollars to prove the issue in court.

While only a handful of lawyers across the country specialize in pet-custody issues, a growing

number of family law professionals are taking on such cases. Dozens of law schools, including those at Harvard, Yale, Duke, Georgetown and UCLA, offer animal law classes that have segments on pet custody.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund has filed briefs in several divorce cases asking that the pet's best interest be taken into consideration.

Three years ago, a Virginia

"If your pets are like your children and you get a divorce, they end up getting divided up like pets and pans. It's devastating."

Lynn Goldstein Nichols

lost 2 cats in divorce from ex-husband

woman, Jennifer Kidwell, who had gone through a three-year legal battle with her ex-husband over their dog, started a Web site to help others involved in pet-custody disputes. In addition to stories about court battles across the country, PetCustody.com offers documents pertaining to pet visitation, prenuptial agreements for pet owners and guardianship of pets.

"These days, pets have achieved elevated status in some families. They are truly members of the family," said Nancy Peterson, an issues specialist for the Humane Society of the United States. "So when people separate, it is easy to turn discussions about who will keep the pet into a legal battle. The problem is that courts don't often look at pets in

the same way."

For Nichols, who does freelance advertising work from home, the custody battle over five family pets lasted about two years after she filed for divorce from her husband, Thomas Nichols, a United Parcel Service pilot. During eight years of marriage, she said, he was not home enough to care for the animals.

After spending \$30,000 on the divorce, much of it on the pet-custody battle, Lynn Nichols ended up with the three dogs and her husband got the two cats. She also got some jail time.

"I hid the cats every time the sheriff's department came to pick them up, and I told them they had run away," Nichols said. "When the judge found out what I was doing, he charged me with contempt. I never thought I would end up in jail. But I was doing what I thought was best to protect my pets."

Nichols did not get any pet visitation rights. She said she has no idea whether the cats, which she adopted as stray kittens, are alive.

While that case was extreme, experts said, it has by no means been the only such battle. During the past 10 years, there have been several court rulings throughout the country in cases that turned ugly.

"There are a growing number of these cases, and they are a pain," said Peter Borchert, a New York City animal behaviorist who has testified in a half-dozen cases. "Either they are workable or they are not, depending on how agreeable the parties are. Just like in a child-custody case, most of the time the adult emotions get involved and it gets out of hand."

COURT-MARTIAL DEFENSE

GUY WOMACK, P.C., ATTORNEY AT LAW

WORLD WIDE

Call 713-224-8815

WWW.GUYWOMACK.COM



Messages of Support

★ My name is Maureen. And I just wanted to say thank you for what you all are doing. We our SO PROUD of you all. Come home soon. I know this is a hard time for you all. But if there is anything that my family can do please use the e-mail address that is here and let us know. Be careful and come home soon. Love the Lallo Family

FLY HOME	
September Specials	
Atlanta.....	\$ 412
New York.....	\$ 399
New Orleans.....	\$ 412
Tampa.....	\$ 469
Los Angeles.....	\$ 525
San Francisco.....	\$ 525
Detroit.....	\$ 412

See first row. All fares are round-trip. Taxes \$45/one-way.

Bookings by Air

Egypt 1 week \$1059

Russia 1 week \$1299

See first row. All fares are round-trip. Taxes \$45/one-way.

full week signposting incl.

CRUISES \$649 up

2 children 11 age 17 free

22 adults

TOP TOURISTUK

Call tollfree 0800FLYHOME

E-mail: toptouristuk@e-online.de

web: www.toptouristuk.de

IN THE WORLD

Mexican soldiers halt funeral of U.S. Marine killed in Iraq

The Associated Press

SAN LUIS DE LA PAZ, Mexico — Mexican soldiers carrying automatic weapons interrupted the Independence Day funeral of a U.S. Marine and demanded that the

Marine honor guard give up ceremonial replicas of rifles they carried. The move drew an angry reaction from the U.S. ambassador. Hundreds of friends and relatives packed a small cemetery for the funeral on Sunday of 22-year-old Juan Lopez, who was born in this sun-scorched farming town, immigrated to Dalton, Ga., as a teenager and became a Marine.

He was killed in an ambush in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, on June 21.

Maj. Curt Gwilliam presented an American flag to Lopez's widow, Sandra Torres, who clutched a bouquet of yellow and white flowers while tears streamed down her face.

While the funeral demonstrated the close human ties of Mexico and the United States, problems began moments after the start.

Four U.S. Marines marched sol-

emly to the grave carrying an American flag and the colors of the Marine Corps. Two of the men had rifles that looked real, but could not be fired, strapped to their backs.

Four Mexican soldiers blocked their path, asking the four Marines and six others who had served as pallbearers to return to the car that had brought them to the funeral.

Several minutes of discussions by soldiers from both countries interrupted the funeral until a trumpet player began a rendition of taps and the funeral proceeded, despite the objections of the Mexican troops.

When the ceremony was complete, the Marines returned to a U.S. Embassy vehicle and waited.

Fourteen Mexican soldiers arrived to guard the premises. About 40 minutes later, the Mexican soldiers allowed the van to leave.



Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, right, shares a word with German Finance Minister Hans Eichel, left, during a meeting of the Eurogroup finance ministers in Brussels on Monday. Berlusconi is expected to ask EU finance ministers for leniency on Italy's growing budget deficit problem.

Italy promises EU it will shape up its financial picture

By PAUL GEITNER

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi won an endorsement Monday from his European Union colleagues for his plans to narrow Italy's yawning budget deficit with \$9.2 billion in new spending cuts and tax measures.

"Yes, it's a good result, as I had predicted," Berlusconi told reporters after convincing EU finance ministers that a looming reprimand was unnecessary because he had Italy's finances under control — for 2004 at least. But selling the package at home may be harder. Berlusconi had to make the trip to Brussels himself because his economy minister was forced out Saturday by coalition partners angered at the planned cuts in spending.

In a unanimously adopted statement, EU ministers welcomed Berlusconi's commitments to implement the additional measures "with rigor" so as not to break the deficit ceiling in 2004, and to use any windfall from higher-than-expected growth to reduce the deficit as well.

Italy also promised to finance next year's promised tax cuts with "commensurate savings" in public spending so as not to aggravate the deficit in 2005 and its high level of public debt, the ministers said.

"Italy has responded to the concerns expressed," all 25 ministers, including Italy, agreed. "The procedure is closed."

German Finance Minister Hans Eichel said before the vote that early warnings only make sense for governments that aren't

cooperating. "That's not the case with Italy," he said, praising Berlusconi's efforts to trim the budget.

Germany itself avoided an early warning in February 2002 by promising to redouble efforts, only to fall later.

Minister Berlusconi will personally see to it that the measures will be implemented," said Dutch Finance Minister Gerrit Zalm, who chaired the talks.

There's no reason why we should not believe that promise."

At a closing news conference, Zalm and EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Joaquin Almunia stressed more was needed to avoid facing the same problem next year.

"We are expecting new measures to be adopted before the end of the year for next year," Almunia said.

Berlusconi said he would start discussions soon on 2005's budget.

Rather than the EU, however, Berlusconi's main problem could be persuading his coalition partners in Rome to go along with the budget package.

Opposition to spending cuts from his largest coalition partner, the National Alliance, forced his economy minister Giulio Tremonti, to resign over the weekend. His exit avoided the prospect of early elections, which could sweep Berlusconi's conservative coalition out of power.

Zalm, who was chairing the talks, said the new package would include spending cuts and tax increases.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.2489
British pound	\$1.86
Japanese yen (July 6)	106.00
S. Korean won (July 5)	1,124.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$3.770
British pound	\$1.8339
Canada (Dollar)	1.236
Denmark (Krone)	6.116
Egypt (Pound)	4.200
EUR (Euro)	\$1.232
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.759
Hungary (Forint)	206.13
Iceland (Krona)	72.135
Israel (Sheqel)	4.836
Japan (Yen)	108.3
Lebanon (Lira)	1,500
Norway (Krone)	6.9870
Philippines (Peso)	55.8
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.750
Singapore (Dollar)	1.112
S. Korea (Won)	1,155.0
Switzerland (Franc)	1.036
Thailand (Baht)	50.80
Turkey (Lira)	1,470,588.00
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc doc	
Gold	\$398.30
Silver	\$5.98

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.375
3-month bill	1.25
30-year bond	5.21
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Sites on trading markets

Knight Ridder Tribune

The various trading markets contain a wealth of information on everything from equities to commodity listings and more. Many of these markets have web pages that provide individuals with the latest market action and useful insights on trading and investing.

Here are the sites for some familiar U.S. trading markets:

■ American Stock Exchange

www.amex.com

Chicago Board of Trade
www.cbtc.com

NASDAQ www.nasdaq.com
Contains array of trading info and investor tools.

New York Stock Exchange
www.nyse.com

Pacific Exchange
www.pacificex.com

Ready for a vacation?

The time is right
with a low-rate
summer loan.

As low as
7.25%
APR*

Apply for your loan today at one of our banking centers.

CommunityBank

Powered by **Bank of America**



www.DoDCommunityBank.com
Bank of America, N.A. Member FDIC

* APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All rates shown reflect a 25% APR rate reduction for automatic payment from your CommunityBank checking or savings account. Offer rates and terms may vary and are subject to credit review and approval. Rates are effective through 7/31/04 only. Further rates and terms subject to change without notice. Example: A 3-year fixed rate \$2,000 unsecured signature loan. Based on an effective interest rate of 7.25%, this loan would have 36 monthly payments of \$60.58 and one final payment of \$60.50 and an overall percentage rate (APR) of 7.25%. This example assumes automatic deduction of the loan payment from a CommunityBank checking account. Increase the rate and APR. See 25% off your finance rate for our automatic payment.

OPINION

In Hamdi's defense, ruling makes fight fair

BY BRONWYN LANCE CHESTER

The Virginian-Pilot

The Bush administration got a jolting reminder last week of what every seventh-grader knows: In America, everyone is entitled to his day in court.

And to look folks up and throw away the key takes more than a hearsay-filled memo from a faceless drone at the Pentagon.

Over the weekend, many of us reread that great testament to mistrust of unchecked government power known as the Declaration of Independence. So it was appropriate that, a few days before the Fourth of July, the Supreme Court handed down its decision in the case of Yaser Esam Hamdi.

A Louisiana-born — that means he's a U.S. citizen — man of Saudi descent, Hamdi has spent the last 2½ years living an episode lifted straight from the mind of George Orwell.

Picked up by Northern Alliance fighters in Afghanistan and accused of being a Taliban member, Hamdi was handed to U.S. authorities who promptly shipped him to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. When military officials got wind of his American citizenship, Hamdi was forwarded to the Norfolk Naval Brig, then routed to another military prison in South Carolina.

In his two years in the solitary slammer, Hamdi has never been charged with a crime. He has never been allowed to dispute — or even see — the government's evidence against him. That "evidence," by the way, turns out to be a flimsy two-page statement of hearsay from a low-level Pentagon political appointee not present at Hamdi's capture.

Hamdi was denied access to a lawyer

until December. But even as his case wound its way to the Supreme Court, Hamdi's public defender remained unable to dispute even the government's facts; they remained classified.

Americans could be forgiven for thinking this sounds more like a Kafkaesque gulag than the Land of the Free.

On [June 28], the high court yanked the reins of President Bush's assertion that he possessed the unbridled power to throw terror suspects into a legal black hole indefinitely without charges. The court said Congress had indeed given Bush the power to detain enemy combatants. But he can't do so without affording them a hearing of some kind.

Bush can't saddle his latest *bête noire*, liberal "activist judges," with this decision. One of the court's most conservative justices, Antonin Scalia, joined perhaps its most liberal, John Paul Stevens, in saying Hamdi should either be charged with treason or released.

Score? Due process: 1. Unchecked presidential power: 0.

Hamdi's case has always had an air of "there but for the grace of God..." about it. In a vague undeclared war where the battlefield stretches from Kandahar to Key West, and where the feds have carte blanche to pick up and hold suspects forever, Hamdi's situation has given pause to many Americans.

U.S. citizen Hamdi was seized roughly the same time as another American, John Walker Lindh, who was found in the after-battle floss at Mazar-e Sharif. Hamdi, on the other hand, was turned over by Northern Alliance fighters who were paid a bounty for every "Taliban" they handed to Americans. Their assertion deserves scrutiny.

Our own government shouldn't fear our



own criminal justice system.

After all, Lindh was tried and now sits in prison, and our national security is still intact. Or did Lindh get his day in court because he's a fresh-faced, normal-named kid from California whose father is an attorney? Supposedly Hamdi was nabbed totting a rifle. Was he actually bearing arms against America? Or was he armed as a matter of course, as most men are in rural Afghanistan? Look, for all I know — for all anyone knows — Hamdi could have been an aid worker, as his father claims. Or he

could have been the brains behind Osama bin Laden's terror empire. We simply don't know.

But even sicko serial killer Ted Bundy had his day in court.

John Ashcroft's justice jockeys have tried to spin the Hamdi verdict as, incredibly, a win for the Bush administration.

Yet anything less than the Supreme Court's decision preserving the right of the accused to be heard — yes, even in the midst of a war on terror — would have been a sweeping loss for Americans' individual liberties in the name of collective security.

Opposing biotech gains is far from a sweet science

In their campaign to convince one and all that religious conservatives will be the death of us if their superstitions remain unexposed, certain members of the haughtily disdainful crowd will often close their eyes to left-

Jay Ambrose

supernatural — while only half grasping what it is the conservatives are saying.

Perhaps no better example of this ideological blindness exists than the outrage with which the disdainful have greeted President Bush's limits on federally funded stem-cell research —

stupid and cruel, we've

told — and their simultaneous silence about the war of environmental extremists against biotech research.

I grant a powerful case can be made against Bush's policy. But is there nothing at all to be said for the concern of some of the religious and others about killing embryos for the purpose of treating people? Should there be no sensitivity whatsoever that there might be something inhuman in this? Those questions might have little if any power with large numbers of people, but they are not exactly frivolous, and meanwhile, there are some unreported facts to consider. For instance, it's far from being a sure thing the research will pay off. Meanwhile, as at least some science writers also inform us, some impressive progress is already being made in adult stem-cell research, which presents us with none of the moral issues of the embryonic research.

What's also frequently ignored is that Bush's policy applies only to federally funded research. It has no effect on private research, and so it is that Stanford and Harvard are among the private institutions that have put together stem-cell research programs.

Look now at biotech, which through gene-splicing has the potential of vastly increasing crop yields around the world and thus attacking hunger, and which can also be used to create all sorts of medicines with potential curative ability that could outdistance anything that might come from stem-cell research. What's the position of Greenspace, the radical environmental group? Bang this thing on the head. Kill it. Get rid of it.

True, biotech could pose some environmental and other risks, but risk is part of virtually everything we do in this life and there are all manner of governmental safeguards in place.

"We've been changing the food forever," said the renowned scientist James Watson in an interview with the Associated Press a couple of years ago. Taking note of the plain breeding that went on prior to development of the gene-splicing technique, he is quoted as saying that today's regulation is "totally capricious and unnecessary" and as arguing that it "keeps people from coming up with things that would be useful."

Watson, of course, is the man whose Nobel Prize came from his discovery of the double-helix configuration of DNA. He told the

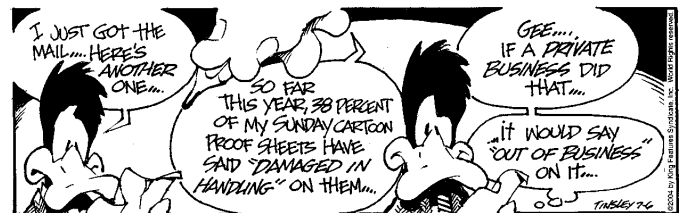
AP reporter he thought the environmental groups issued their scary warnings just to drum up membership. I disagree. I think many of these people are true believers frightened of modernity and the evils they associate with technological advance.

To be sure, there are people who favor both stem-cell research and biotech, and those who oppose both, and any generalization about ideologies won't hold true for all those subscribing to them. But what you see over and over is a self-righteous willingness to loudly belittle the right as unscientific and uncaring, even if the left is often more the culprit on these fronts.

Jay Ambrose is director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Burnt rubber ducky

WA SILVERDALE — A Rotary Club has been left with a \$7,000 bill for roasted duck, but this fowl was no fall-off-the-bone meal — it was a little more on the rubbery side.

A 25-foot inflatable rubber duck the club was using to promote a fund-raiser caught fire. Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue crews quickly put out the flames, but the fire left behind burned grass and "one melted duck," said spokeswoman Lindsay Ingram.

The duck was being used to advertise the 11th annual Great Kitsap Duck Race on July 26. Participants pay \$5 to race normal-sized rubber ducks on Dyes Inlet and the proceeds are donated to charitable causes.

Thinking of you ...

OH FRANKLIN — William Fitzpatrick missed his first wedding anniversary because he was in boot camp. When he figured out he was going to miss the second while serving in Iraq, he wisely decided to do something special.

The 23-year-old Marine hired an aircraft service to fly a banner over the home where his wife and son live.

The banner proclaimed in large words, "I love you Jennifer from Ray in Iraq."

Fitzpatrick's father drove over to Jennifer's home and invited her and 2-year-old daughter to walk down the street to a nearby park.

"Then we heard this noise, this plane, and we looked up and there it was—a big banner. When I saw the last three words, 'Ray in Iraq,' I got chills all over and knew right then what it was," Jennifer said.

Bear-baiting controversy

ME FALMOUTH — The major groups supporting a statewide ban on hunting bears with bait, dogs and traps say Gov. John Baldacci and state legislators are using public funds to fight against the proposal.

Attorney Bruce Merrill accused the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife of working too closely with the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine and other groups on ways to defeat the Nov. 2 referendum.

Merrill described the work as "improper," but not "illegal."

The three groups will sue the state if it continues to spend funds to influence the outcome of the citizen-initiated referendum, he said.

Mosquito plague

TX COLLEGE STATION — Now that much of the rains that plagued Texas throughout June have slowed or stopped, it's time for a plague of a different kind in July.

In other words, get out the mosquito repellent.

"They are now all congregating at the edge of town, in town or coming to town within the next few days, and they're probably going to meet everybody on the Fourth of



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

July in the backyards and lawn parties," said Jim Olson, entomologist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

The consistent rains have flushed out breeding sites of the dreaded Culex mosquitoes, notorious carriers of St. Louis encephalitis and West Nile. But different breeds of the bloodsucking bugs, called floodwater mosquitoes, will be hatching by the millions.

Positive fiscal surprise

NE LINCOLN — Nebraska is poised to end the fiscal year with a lot more money than experts predicted just four months ago. While official numbers won't be released for a couple weeks, revenue-watchers said that preliminary reports show the state's coffers will be around \$100 million over official forecasts. The more over forecasts taxes come in, the less of a budget shortfall lawmakers will face starting in January when they set about balancing the state's books.

Accused theft deal

OK STILLWATER — Two Oklahoma State University employees who were accused of taking software from Texas Tech University were paid a total of nearly \$29,000 by OSU and agreed



Windy horizon

Wind turbines stretch to the horizon at the Oklahoma Wind Energy Center north of Woodward, Okla.

to resign from the school, according to documents obtained through an open records request.

According to a deal between OSU and the former employees, Brandon LaBonte was paid \$16,083. Former employee Michael Hewett was paid \$12,883 in a similar agreement.

The signed documents obtained through open records requests made by The Oklahoman and the Tulsa World state that the former employees agreed "to make no adverse comments about Oklahoma State University to any third parties."

Beaver's service bites

MI TRAVERSE CITY — Residents in northeastern Michigan have something to chew on now that the source of an outage in their long-distance phone service has been discovered.

A beaver is to blame, according to a spokesman for Verizon Communications.

The outage lasted about six hours. About 62,000 customers were affected, including long-distance, Internet and cellular phone services.

It took crews a while to locate the source of the problem because the damaged fiber optic cable was stretched across a wetland area near the headwaters of the Muskegon River, said spokesman John VanWyck.

The water level in the wetland had been lowered by the state Department of Natural Resources because of heavy rain in recent months, exposing the cable.

Bovines make a bust

TN COLUMBIA — The credit for the bust is going to the bovines.

A tip on the whereabouts of Parker Ray Elliott, suspected of fatally shooting his ex-wife and daughter and wounding his son, had led authorities to search near a Maury County farm.

"I saw four or five cows by a barn," said state parks employee Shane Petty, who was tracking Elliott with his bloodhound. "I knew those cows should have been looking at me, since I had just come into the area, but they were looking over into the woods, so I knew that's where he was."

Officers soon captured Elliott in those woods.

Stall debate

VT BELLINGS FALLS — Since they were installed in 1922, they've offered welcome relief to many a passing traveler.

So when the town renovates its historic train station, there's expected to be some debate over whether the three men's room urinals really have to go.

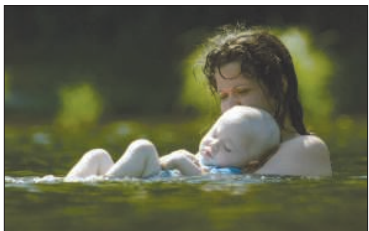
Project manager Susan McMahon told a public meeting that it wasn't clear whether the fixtures would fit in the new design.

She said if they can't be accommodated in the newly designed men's room, the town may donate them to the American Sanitary Plumbing Museum in Worcester, Mass.



A mother's touch

A newborn Caribbean flamingo chick sticks its head out of its mother's plumage at the San Diego Zoo. The San Diego Zoo is celebrating the birth of several flamingos, marking the first hatching in several years.



Soothing waters

In the arms of his mother, Jamie, Lucas Guthrie, 2, falls asleep in the warm waters of the South Umpqua River at Templin Beach in Roseburg, Ore.



Leading the Great Race

The current leader of The Great Race, driver G.R. Pike and navigator Bobby Hadskey drive on Main Street in a 1916 Hudson Speedster in Pleasanton, Calif.



Flipping over the rainbow

Trevor McClure, 13, of Caney, Kan., does a flip into the Caney city swimming pool as a rainbow stretches across the eastern sky after storms moved through southern Kansas and northern Oklahoma.



Washing behind his ears

Sam Whitley, of the Virginia state capitol grounds crew, cleans the statue of George Washington in the rotunda of the Capitol in Richmond, Va.



Odd ball

The SA-60 low-altitude surveillance aircraft begins its decline over a field at Captain Walter Francis Duke Regional Airport in Hollywood, Md., during a demonstration flight for the media.



Whole bundle of love

A volunteer holds an armful of kittens available for adoption at the Seattle Animal Shelter. A warm winter has rained cats and dogs on area shelters.

Early dismissal

MA BOSTON — Lawmakers may end their formal session 10 days early this year because of the traffic tie-ups and political distraction expected from the Democratic National Convention. It arrives in Boston the week of July 26. Typically the last week of July is one of the busiest in the Legislature's two-year calendar, with July 31 being the deadline to finish business.

Marriage amendment

AR LITTLE ROCK — Supporters of a proposed state constitutional amendment that would define marriage as only between a man and a woman said they have the 80,570 signatures needed to place the measure on the Nov. 2 ballot. The group will submit the signatures to the Secretary of State's office, which must count and certify them.

Erosion aid plea

AK ANCHORAGE — Leaders in some of Alaska's rural villages are appealing for aid because erosion is threatening to destroy their homes. At a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing, scientists and tribal leaders described how villages handle the flooding and erosion that result from Arctic climate change. High water or surf regularly damages 183 of 213 Alaska Native villages, according to a 2003 study by the General Accounting Office.

Zoo drownings

LA MONROE — A giraffe and an ostrich apparently drowned in a 15-foot sinkhole in what a zoo veterinarian called a "freak accident."

The sinkhole, 9 feet in diameter, was created by a burst water main at the Louisiana Purchase Gardens & Zoo, and the animals drowned sometime overnight or in the morning.

Visitors couldn't see the animals in the sinkhole and were blocked from seeing their bodies removed and buried.

The Rothschild giraffe, on loan from the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, N.Y., was one of two males on exhibit at the northeast Louisiana zoo for the past 19 months. The ostrich was one of four females exhibited at the Monroe zoo for the past four years.

Making an exception

IL SPRINGFIELD — Lawmakers granted President Bush an exception from the usual deadline for placing candidates' names on the fall election ballot. Illinois law requires the ballot to be finalized 67 days before the election. Republicans are holding their convention unusually late this year, and Bush won't be officially nominated until 61 days before the election.

Taxpayer land rush

ID COEUR D'ALENE — County commissioner Dick Panabaker wants taxpayers to buy up land before developers can. He says revenue from the local-option sales tax could finance land preser-

vation. The state needs to approve his plan since the tax is limited to providing property tax relief and paying for jails.

Development in the area is consuming open space at the rate of 1,000 acres a year.

Teen on trial in attack

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A teenager went on trial on assault charges stemming from an alleged anti-Asian hate crime last year.

The defendant, a high-school senior and juvenile whose name is being withheld, is accused of being among several white teenage boys who attacked five Chinese-American youths June 6 of last year.

The white youths allegedly kicked and pushed some of the Chinese-Americans, poured beer on one and yelled racial slurs. Only one of the whites was identified and charged.

Natural gas is costly

MT HELENA — A new natural gas contract that starts this month means more than six dozen state agencies, school districts and communities are facing an 89 percent increase in heating costs this fiscal year. Montana State University, the largest gas user in the state's Energy Procurement Program, is expected to pay almost \$1 million more.

New mom pleads innocent

NY NEW YORK — A pregnant woman who fatally stabbed her husband and tried to kill herself before giving birth has pleaded innocent to second-degree murder.

The woman, 28-year-old Sung-Ann Choi-Lee, was arraigned from her hospital bed. She was also charged with assault and criminal possession of a weapon.

Prosecutors said Choi-Lee, who was nine months pregnant, stabbed her husband, Matthew Lee, multiple times at the home they shared in Staten Island.

She then tried to commit suicide by slitting her wrists before being taken to a hospital, where she gave birth to a healthy baby boy by Cesarean section.

Insane juror a possibility

TX HOUSTON — A legally insane Houston man who gouged his girlfriend's eyes with a steak knife has received a jury summons and might be able to serve, but lawyers say it's doubtful he'll be picked for a panel.

Nathan Dale Campbell was first summoned to report for Harris County jury service recently, but the date was then rescheduled to Aug. 30, said a staffer in the district clerk's office.

Campbell, 30, was acquitted in 1997 after a jury found he was legally insane when he attacked girlfriend Kristen West the previous year, blinding her in one eye and permanently damaging her sight in the other.

Campbell received treatment as an inpatient at the Kerrville State Hospital.

The attack followed West's refusal of Campbell's marriage proposal.

Photos and stories from wire reports



FACES 'N' PLACES



—CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/Scripts Howard; JUDI DENCH PHOTO BY NEW YORK DAILY NEWS/RT PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY XENIQA GARFINKEL/Stars and Stripes

Dame Judi Dench, known for her classic roles in "Shakespeare in Love" and "Iris," takes an action turn in "The Chronicles of Riddick."

What's a dame doing with a Diesel?

Classic actress has no trouble seeing herself in action flick

BY JOE NEUMAIER
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — These days, matriarchs are Dame Judi Dench's specialty: royal, familial, even official, like her spymistress M in the James Bond films.

Dench likens her ethereal space diplomat in the sci-fi flick "The Chronicles of Riddick" not to her aging Virgin Queen in "Shakespeare in Love," but to that film's star and fellow Oscar-winner, Gwyneth Paltrow.

"Perhaps after 'Riddick,' audiences will think I'm this thing I've always longed to be: the tall, willowy blond," says Dench. "In fact, I act that all the time, until I catch myself in a mirror. Inside, I am absolutely that."

In "Riddick," Dench, 69, sports cascading locks and floats on air. Audiences who know her from "Shakespeare in Love" and her other Oscar-nominated performances in "Mrs. Brown," "Chocolat" and "Iris" may be surprised to see Dench sharing the screen with Vin Diesel.

"It is a complete departure," she admits. "But I've never wanted to take the safe option — never. It's a new challenge. I think it's very boring to do the same thing all the time."

Dench says Diesel charmed her when he visited her during her run in David Hare's play "The Breath of Life."

"Vin was chivalrous. He came to London and gave me flowers. I couldn't take upstairs, they were so large. I never read the script, since I never got over the asking. I was excited about being wooed to do this film."

Dench has acted professionally since 1957. Although she's always dabbled in films, she is generally regarded as the greatest British stage actress of the last half-century — and one who has moved seamlessly between TV dramas and comedies.

Her movie career gathered momentum when she played M for the first time in the 1995 Bond entry "GoldenEye." She then

starred as Queen Victoria, grief-stricken by the death of her husband, Prince Albert, in 1997's "Mrs. Brown."

"Nobody [in America] knew I'd done anything else besides M—all of 38 years, gone in a flash!" she says, chuckling. "Almost all of Shakespeare's plays, a lot of Ibsen and Chekhov — gone. Suddenly I had to learn how to act for films."

"It was very nice to be discovered, and a bit funny at that age. It felt like a new door opening. I was well known in England, and not known in the U.S. at all."

A few years after "Mrs. Brown," Dench lost her own husband.

She had met actor Michael Williams at the Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. They married in 1971 and performed together often. (Their daughter, Tara, known as Finty, is an actress, too.) In 1999, Dench learned, while doing "Amy's View" on Broadway, that Williams had been diagnosed with lung cancer. He died in January 2001.

"After Michael passed away, work was the great consolation," she says. "It did [movies such as] 'The Shipping News,' 'Iris,' 'The Importance of Being Earnest,' often with just a few days in between."

"I don't suppose I'll ever adapt to life without Michael. I think if one is fortunate to have a happy marriage for a very long time, and lucky enough to have experienced love, you never get over losing it — but you do learn to live with it. Yet sometimes the loss catches you unawares, which is like a punch in the solar plexus."

"I talk about him now more than I ever did. I feel he's a kind of presence that's there all the time. When I did 'All's Well That Ends Well' at Stratford last year, I was frightened, because all our life he had been there — he wooed me there, we were both in the company, he's buried there. And there's no question in my mind that I was helped by him the whole time I was there."

But as for peppering her illustrious career with action movies like "Riddick," Dench relies on her intuition. "I take the work very seriously, but not myself, and I think that's a saving grace," she says. "I go utterly on instinct. It is all I ever act on, and all I ever go by."

Dominican subs for Cuba

The Cuban flag was hung from a balcony of the Dominican National Palace in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for the benefit of actor Andy Garcia.

The building was being used Saturday in the filming of "The Lost City," which the Cuban-born Garcia is both acting in and directing.

Explosions were detonated inside the palace to re-create a failed assault on Cuba's presidential palace during the revolution that eventually led to Fidel Castro's triumph in 1959.

The 48-year-old Garcia, whose family left the island nation when he was 5, has been a staunch critic of Castro.

Race not Newman's own

Paul Newman was knocked out of the American GT Challenge sports car race Saturday in Salisbury, Conn., by a faulty gearbox.

Newman, driving a Chevrolet Corvette, was running in the top three for about two-thirds of the race before mechanical troubles forced him out with approximately 15 minutes remaining.

The 79-year-old Oscar winner wound up finishing 15th in the 19-car field. The winner was Eric Curran of South Deerfield, Mass.



Newman

Dole in talks for lecture

Bob Dole, who lost his bid for the presidency to Bill Clinton in 1996, could become the first lecturer at the new Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

The Republican former senator is in talks with the school to give a speech Sept. 18.

"He's got great credentials to do this, the world knows this is a nonpartisan school," said the school's dean, David Pryor, himself a former senator.

Dole would be returning a favor to Clinton, who opened a lecture series at the University of Kansas' Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics earlier this year.

Clinton and Dole also faced off on "60 Minutes" last year, giving political commentaries.



Dole

Trim Huckabee finishes 5K

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee sprinted across a finish line that a year earlier he probably would have waddled over.

Huckabee completed the Firecracker 5K on Saturday in Little Rock, just over a year after starting a diet that has pared 105 pounds from his frame.

"I still had some juice left," Huckabee, 48, said at the finish line, wiping sweat from his head. "The first quarter-mile is really hard, but I knew then it was OK."

He finished the race in 28 minutes and 39 seconds, and he said he hoped he was sending a message "to all the middle-aged fat guys out there who don't think they can change."



Huckabee

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Getting in touch with your feelings will be the focus, and you'll be surprised by intangible energy forces.

The Pisces moon and Cancer sun are two water-sign influences that stir the heart. And if you feel more eloquent in expression of your emotions, thank Mercury in Leo, lending the gift of flowery articulation.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(July 6). This year, you uncover abilities you never knew you had. Your creative input is key to making a project a success this summer. You'll be proud of what you've accomplished and may take a trip to celebrate in September. October brings romance.

Joyce Jillion



You'll be making a long-term commitment. Favored signs are Pisces and Libra.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

It's a topsy-turvy day. Power structures flip, plans reverse, and ideas turn in on themselves. Center yourself, or you could make bad decisions that will set you back for days! This afternoon, it's clear what you are attracting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Your way isn't the only way, and knowing that adds to the fun. You and a partner make beautiful music together, and the spirit of play is very much alive. Verbal sparring is innocent enough — and sexy, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You're perfectly lovely as is. Don't let you have to perform or force a dialogue where none naturally wants to occur. When you maintain a spacious mind-set, it doesn't seem necessary to try hard to impress anyone.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Your restless pace is most effective — you are like a James Bond-type spy who never seems rattled by the prospect of a ticking bomb. It's surprising how much you can actually get done and still have time for a long, soft nap.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Perseus is the name of the game. Be sure to get a point of view that makes you feel powerful. Strengthen

your sense of discipline — crack down at work. Evening activities are as wholesome as raspberry iced tea.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Melodious interactions are featured. You're humming with the excitement of new friendships. You may even call it infatuation. Take it slow, and learn all you can about new people. To-night, reading can take the place of experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Practical plans can make the most outrageous or ethereal ideas come to life. With-out the brick and mortar, castles are only built in the air, and who can live in those? Put your blueprint together. Tonight is about creativity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

The stars mix up social vibes for you. Whatever gets accomplished will happen through personal relationships. Strictly business deals get moved to the back burner as you concentrate on helping friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're lit by the spirit of competition. Anyone who is up for the game won't take offense. Acting on your instincts is key. Otherwise, they won't serve you as well. The next time. Who wants to take to someone who doesn't listen?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Too many works in progress will be frustrating. Narrow your choices. Zero in on one project at a time, and finish, finish, finish! Employment seekers: Ceaselessly pursue your job search.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

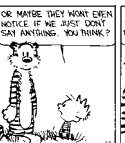
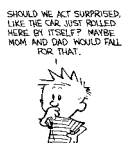
You don't fit neatly into any category — how wonderful! Be careful not to pigeonhole those you're dealing with today, either. They are true originals, just like you. Vibrant communication choices make you a magnetic force.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

The world is available to you, maybe even a little too available. If you can stop yourself from eating, drinking, spending and talking too much, this is a highly productive day. People who do business with you want you to succeed.

Creators Syndicate

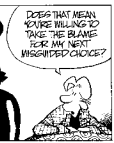
Calvin and Hobbes



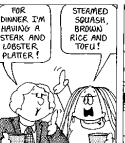
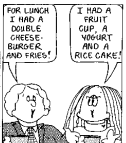
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



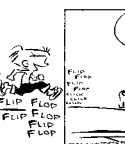
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



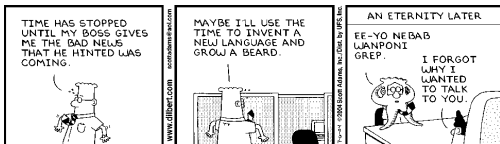
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



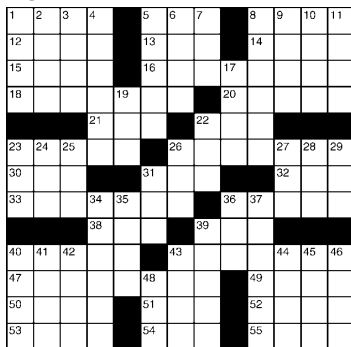
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 "Wheel of Fortune" option
5 Nevertheless, for short
8 Crafts' mates
12 Singer Braxton
13 Scull need
14 Marx lack
15 Killer whale
16 Butterfly-shaped flower
18 NBC mascot
20 Easy mark
21 Playwright Levin
22 Bracketed word
23 Huge
26 Pilot's place
30 Have a bug
31 Debtor's letters
32 Parisian pal
33 Tenacious dog
36 Shows shock
38 Wapiti
39 Gibson or Brooks
40 Vast expanse
47 Warmup area
49 Pennsylvania port
50 Advantage
51 "Rope-a-dope" specialist
52 Bygone times
53 Oweeth
54 Lobbyist org.
55 Exceeded the limit
- 2 Skin opening
3 Ershwile
4 Peruvian
4 Nicotinic acid
5 Puccini heroine
6 War-monger
7 Mined-over matter
8 Command to
11 33-Across
9 Engrossed
10 "Family ___"
11 Dispatch a dragon
17 1990 Faith No More song
19 Scrap
22 52-centime coin
23 Space
24 Midafternoon, on a sundial
25 Model/actress
26 Pueblo's st.
- 27 — de deux
28 Mischief-maker
29 Frank McCourt bestseller
31 Sort
34 Conked with a pitch
35 Radius neighbor
36 Solidify
37 Keglers' mecca
39 Score
40 Tournament format
41 Relinquish
42 MIT grad, perhaps
43 Mr. Lugosi
44 Item on stage
45 Green acres?
46 Can't do without
48 Treasure seeker's aid

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Down

1 Period

7-6 CRYPTOQUIP
DPGZT J AZPLS DCP'W
JZDJKW WXJEFN EGTSZK
JX PXCSE BSBPZS AS
LFPDFJ JW LUFN ZSSE?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PERSON IS CRYING LOUDLY IN A PUB, THAT MIGHT BE CALLED A BARROOM BAWL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals E

Marriage needs quick overhaul

Dear Abby: "Distancing in Washington" wrote that after 10 years of marriage and two daughters, she and her spouse are on the verge of divorce. You recommended Marriage Encounter.

Abby, her difficulty appears to be a bit beyond the scope of Marriage Encounter.

Marriage Encounter is for marriages in good shape looking to improve. I suggest she check into Retrouvaille.org. This international program was developed in 1976 by Marriage Encounter couples in Quebec, Canada, for the purpose of addressing serious marriage problems. Let me give you an analogy: Marriage Encounter is a tune-up for marriages NOT in crisis. Retrouvaille is an overhaul for marriages in danger of falling apart.

Retrouvaille places strong emphasis on the communications techniques needed to repair hurtling marriages, including 12 post-weekend sessions of about

two hours each. My wife and I have been involved in both programs. (All the people involved in Marriage Encounter and Retrouvaille are volunteers.) The steps in Marriage Encounter are romance, disillusionment and joy. In Retrouvaille, the steps are romance, disillusionment, misery and hope.

— G.H. from Arizona
DEAR G.H.: Thank you for straightening me out. I would like to add that although Retrouvaille is a program under the umbrella of the Catholic Church, Catholic theology is NOT part of the program and a couple's religion (or lack of religion) is never a factor — nor is anyone's financial status.



Dear Abby: My blood froze when I read the letter from "Distancing in Washington." She should run with her husband to their doctor and ask for a com-

plete physical exam with blood work. If he won't go, she should talk with his doctor.

My kind and gentle husband of 10 years sat me down a week ago and told me he's addicted to pain pills and has been for three years. Her letter scared me because that is how it all started in my marriage — with fights, loss of affection and physical contact. My friendly, well-educated, hardworking husband slowly turned into a withdrawn, exhausted stranger who snarled at the kids, ignored me and couldn't keep a job.

Please urge "Distancing" to seek help now — before she's in my position.

— Knows Better Now in Maine
Dear Knows Better: Thank you for the reminder that changes in personality can indicate that something is medically wrong and should be brought to the attention of one's physician.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUIHMM

©2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved

GUAVE

SABBOR

NIGINN

Answer:

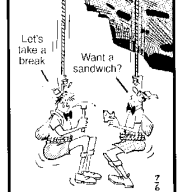
Jumbles: COCOA STOIC BEETLE CAVORT

Yesterday's Answer: What the saloon keeper took when the cowboys got rowdy — "COVER"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

The 800900 nos. have been DISCONTINUED



MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS WILL DO THIS WHILE THEY REST.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Returning troops need to adjust

Dear Annie: I wanted to weigh in on the comments from "Army Wife Who's Been There." She said returning servicemen need time alone with their wives and children before the rest of the family visits.

I did two tours in Kuwait and Iraq and can verify that what most of us want to do when we first get home is "go hermit." After being surrounded by hundreds of fellow soldiers, you want the privacy and intimacy of your immediate family until you catch your breath and reacclimate yourself to a "normal" environment.

The first few days can be quite stressful, but in most cases, it lasts only a short time. Then you can't wait to see everyone.

Thankfully, I had an understanding circle of family and friends who tolerated my eccentricities.

— Been All I Can Be
Dear Been All: Welcome home.

Annie's Mailbox



Here's more:

Dear Annie: Returning soldiers can easily be overwhelmed by the littlest things. Don't bombard them with responsibilities the minute they walk in the door, and don't be surprised if their personality has changed a bit. Please let military spouses know there is support for them. When soldiers are in the Reserve or National Guard, it is a little more difficult because we don't have the military communities like active-duty soldiers do. However, that is why we have family readiness groups. Spouses should take full advantage of these services.

— Seattle

Dear Annie: My son is in the Army and will be returning from Iraq next month for a two-week leave. He is not coming to visit any of his family here, but is

going only to visit his wife and kids. The rest of the family is not happy with this and has told him so. We have not seen him in over a year.

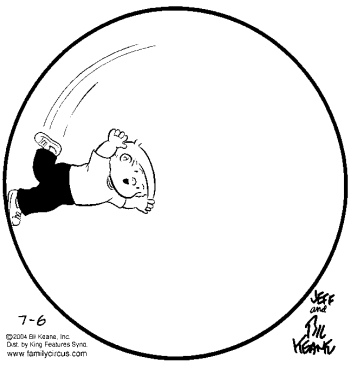
He married this girl in a rush before he went overseas, and none of us has met her or her children (from previous relationships). To her, we say: We have spent sleepless nights worrying about him. We have 20 years invested in your husband, so cut us a little slack if we want to see him when he returns.

— Illinois Mom
Dear Mom: Of course you want to see him, and he should make the time. But this is your daughter-in-law. Instead of competing, why not welcome her? Invite her to visit, or take a trip to see her. It's time you met your son's family.

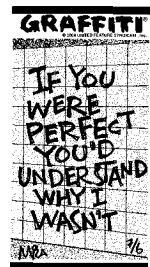
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

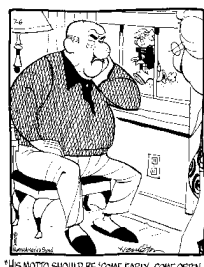
Family Circus



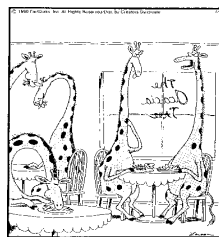
"Goin' around in circles is a lot easier than goin' around in squares!"



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



"Well, if there's a bone stuck in your throat, you deserve it. Do you see anyone else around here stupid enough to order fish?"

Spain sending troops

MADRID, Spain — Spain's Socialist government approved a plan Friday to send hundreds of additional troops to Afghanistan to help NATO provide security for post-Taliban elections in September.

The proposal would increase the number of Spanish troops in Afghanistan from 137 to about 1,000 for the vote; some would be rotated out, leaving 540 in place at the end of the year.

The Cabinet also approved a proposal to send an undetermined number of police to join the U.N. force in Haiti.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero criticized Spain's previous, conservative government for sending troops to Iraq without consulting Parliament.

British bag strike

LONDON — Baggage handlers at some British airports, including Heathrow and Gatwick, have voted to strike in a dispute over pay, their union said Monday.

Members of the Transport and General Workers Union employed by services group Avianca backed walkouts in protest at a proposed 2.5 percent pay increase, the union said. Workers voted by 658 to 163 in favor of strikes.

The union said talks will be held with the company on Wednesday in a bid to avert stoppages.

From The Associated Press

Milosevic's illness delays defense

BY TOBY STERLING

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — A U.N. tribunal delayed the opening of Slobodan Milosevic's defense case Monday due to concerns about his health, and an independent lawyer said he may not be fit to continue his trial.

Judges said doctors for the 62-year-old former Yugoslav president had warned that he urgently needed rest, and said they would review plans on how to continue.



Milosevic

"The trial chamber is clearly of the view that the time has come for a radical review of the trial process and the continuation of the trial is needed in light of the health problems of the accused," presiding Judge Patrick Robinson said.

Prosecutors appealed to the court to impose a defense lawyer on Milosevic, who has insisted on representing himself since the trial began in February 2002. Milosevic angrily rejected the proposal.

"It is out of the question as you know, nor will I ever agree to it," he said.

Milosevic appeared relaxed, vigorous and fit in the courtroom, and objected when Robinson began discussing his medical file, but was overruled.

He nevertheless accused the judges of ordering him to appear, despite a doctor's report earlier Monday that he should remain at the nearby U.N. detention center to rest.

Blood pressure damaging ex-Yugoslav president

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Even when relaxed, Slobodan Milosevic's blood pressure is above normal. At times of stress during his war crimes trial, doctors say it shoots up to dangerous levels.

The details of the former Yugoslav president's heart condition were discussed in open court Monday, and U.N. judges postponed the opening of his defense case on the advice of doctors, who said Milosevic's high blood pressure has damaged his heart.

Milosevic, 62, has been defending himself since the start of his trial in February 2002. The task has meant long hours in court, and long hours in his jail cell researching witnesses and preparing cross-examinations.

The case has frequently been delayed because of fatigue or hypertension. According to a doctor's report read in court, Milosevic has suffered "organ damage" due to high blood pressure, including

"hypertrophy of the left ventricle," meaning an enlargement of the main pumping chamber of the heart.

Blood pressure is measured in millimeters of mercury, or mmHg, units. At times of stress, Milosevic's blood pressure rises to 200/130 mmHg, and falls to around 140/80 mmHg when he is relaxed, said the report read by presiding judge Patrick Robinson.

According to the American Heart Association, high blood pressure increases risk of heart attacks and stroke. "Recent studies show that in adults 40-59 years old, the risk of death from heart disease and stroke begins to rise at blood pressures as low as 115/75 mmHg," the Association warns.

According to the Association's guidelines, the risk of heart attack doubles with each 20/10 mmHg of pressure above normal.

He asked for a further month's delay to make up for time he lost preparing his case due to his health problems. The judges said they would rule later on his request and on the prosecutor's proposal for appointing defense counsel. A tribunal spokesman said the decisions would likely be announced Tuesday.

Steven Kay, one of the independent lawyers assigned to ensure a fair trial for Milosevic, said fresh medical evidence and the steady deterioration of Milosevic's health put the continuation of the case in question.

The judges must consider "his very fitness to stand trial at all," Kay said, but in any case,

"he is plainly not fit enough this week" to appear in court.

Milosevic had been scheduled to give a four-hour opening statement during which he had been expected to deny responsibility for atrocities committed during the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and the Serbian province of Kosovo, and accuse Western governments of hypocrisy.

Milosevic has argued in the past that a 1999 crackdown he ordered on ethnic Albanian Muslims in Kosovo was undertaken to protect the Serb minority there. He claims NATO's 78-day bombing campaign caused civilian deaths.



Find Your Way Home

Relocation Guide
Saturdays

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Mallon fills in 13-year Women's Open gap

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

The Associated Press

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — Meg Mallon left Annika Sorenstam and everybody else behind with the best final round by a winner in Women's Open history.

"I'm 41 years old, and you've got to enjoy your days, enjoy when things like this happen," Mallon said. "I was going to go out and have a fun time and play a great golf course and just do the best I can. And it was all that."

Three strokes behind Jennifer Rosales after the third round, Mallon shot a 6-under 65 on Sunday for her second victory in the tournament and fourth major title. Sorenstam birdied the final two holes for a 67 to finish second, two strokes back.

"I did what I could do," Sorenstam said. "I got outplayed. I don't know how many of you thought there would be a 65 in the last few groups, but Meg proved it all wrong today."

Mallon won the 1991 tournament at Colonial and had some other good chances to win the national championship before finally breaking through again at Orchards Golf Club.

"I'm incredibly proud that I have my name on that trophy again," she said.

The 13-year gap between victories is the largest in the 59-year history of the tournament.

She was in position to win in 1995 at The Broadmoor, but squandered a big lead and ended up losing to Sorenstam by a stroke.

"I kick-started Annika's career in '95," Mallon said.

A record crowd of 118,458 turned out at the Orchards for the four-day event, and the fans made it clear that Mallon, born in Massachusetts, was the hometown favorite.

"I was having a ball with the gallery," she said. "I just said this isn't going to be a distraction, so I appreciated how much they were supporting me and I just fed off that."

The 16-time tour winner finished at 10-under 274 and earned \$560,000 from the richest purse in women's golf.

59 TH U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP																								
START	LEADERS	HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	RD	RD	RD	RD
		PAR	4	4	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	4		1	2	3	4
7	ROSALLES		8	8	8	8	8	6	6	7	6	6	5	5	5	5	4	3	3		70	67	69	
4	MALLON		4	4	5	6	6	6	6	7	8	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		73	69	67	
4	ROBBINS		4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		74	67	68	69
4	SORENSTAM A		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		71	68	70	67
3	TESKE		2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		71	69	70	74
4	JANG		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		72	74	71	66
1	DUNN		1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		73	67	72	71
1	KUNG		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		70	68	74	70
1	HURST		1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		70	71	71	71
2	REDMAN		2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		70	72	73	67

Meg Mallon celebrates after putting out on No. 18 and winning the U.S. Women's Open with a 10-under-par 274, two shots over Annika Sorenstam.

Merely a bystander during so many great moments in women's golf the last few years, Mallon finally celebrated one of her own.

She played with Sorenstam when she shot a record 59, with J. Inkster when she won the LPGA Championship for the career Grand Slam, with Dottie Pepper when she had the lowest score in relation to par in a major, and with Karrie Webb when she carried enough points for the Hall of Fame.

"This day belonged to Mallon."

"It was a surreal moment," said Mallon, cheered on by two sisters, two brothers and a nephew.

She holed a 50-foot birdie putt on No. 4 to start closing in on Rosales, and an 18-footer on No. 11 that curled in the right side and gave her the lead for good. The biggest of all might have been a 25-footer for par from just off the fringe that rattled the pin at No. 15, giving her a cushion for the final three holes.

Mallon didn't make a bogey over the final 25 holes.

The last of her 24 putts in the final round was a tap-in for par that set off a wild celebration with her family.

"The cup looked like a bucket, and it was a great day for that to happen," Mallon said.

And the final round was one for the ages, breaking by one shot the previous best by an Open champion, set by Inkster two years ago at Prairie Dunes.

Just like then, Sorenstam was the runner-up by two shots and wondered what hit her.

"I did everything I could control," Sorenstam said. "I can't control Meg. Sometimes, it's out of your hands and you have to accept that and move on."

Kelly Robbins was the main challenger on the back nine until a bogey on the 15th. Robbins, who lost in a three-way playoff last

year at Pumpkin Ridge, closed with a 69 to finish third at 6 under.

Rosales made her first bogey at No. 7 and quickly fell apart.

She shot a 75 to finish seven strokes back in fourth place.

The teenagers never had a chance, but they put on a good show.

Michelle Wie, the 14-year-old sensation from Hawaii, had a 73 for her first round over par in a major this year. Paula Creamer, a 17-year-old with just as much game, shot a 72. Both tied for 13th at 1 over, making them exempt for the Open next year at Cherry Hills in Denver.

Ames keeps promise to sons, wins first PGA Tour event

The Associated Press

LEMONT, Ill. — The ball dropped into the cup and a wide grin broke across Stephen Ames' face.

"It's great. After all these years, it's really to be a champion."

Ames won his first career PGA Tour victory at the Western Open on Sunday, shooting a 70 to finish at 10-under 274 and beat Steve Lowery by two strokes.

As fans gave the beaming Ames a standing ovation, his two young sons stood patiently at the edge of the 18th green. After hugging his caddie and shaking hands with his playing partners, Ames crouched down and the boys ran into his arms.

"I promised them I was going to win the trophy at the beginning of the week," Ames said, unable

to suppress a smile. "This is their first week out on tour with me since Phoenix, and I told them, 'Guys, I'm going to win this week for you.'"

"And our dream came true."

Northwestern alum and local favorite Luke Donald (67) and Mark Hensby (73) were three strokes back. Stuart Appleby (72) and Geoff Ogilvy (73) were four shots behind Ames in fifth.

It's been a long wait for Ames, the first touring pro from Trinidad & Tobago. He turned pro in 1987 and joined the PGA Tour in 1996, but the closest he'd come to victory was a second-place finish at The Players Championship in 2002.

But Ames is having one of the best, most consistent years of anyone on the tour. He had eight top-10 finishes in 16 events, including six of his last seven starts. He could never quite make the run he needed for his first career victory, with his best finish in the year a third at The Colonial.

On Sunday, everything fell into place.

Ames fell behind early with a two-putt bogey on the par-4 No. 3. But he climbed back into the lead on the par-3 12th, putting his tee shot within 6 feet of the pin and making the putt for a birdie to get back to 9 under.

Lowery made a double-bogey on the par-4 13th to fall two strokes off the lead, and all Ames had to do was close it out. He widened his lead on the par-5 15th,

two-putting from 48 feet for a birdie that took him to 10 under.

Tiger Woods began the day with a chance to get his first stroke-play victory of the year, but just four shots off the lead. But he couldn't get his putts to fall, leaving several birdie chances within inches of the hole, and didn't make his first birdie until the 15th hole. He shot an even-par 71, and finished tied for seventh.

Par on 18 gives Thorpe title
EAST MEADOW, N.Y. — Jim Thorpe capped a 3-under 67 with an 18-foot par putt and beat three players by one stroke at the Long Island Classic to become the first player this year on the Champions Tour to defend a title.

The 55-year-old Thorpe won for the second time this year and

the ninth time on the tour. His 9-under 201 total was one shot in front of Bobby Wadkins (70), Andy Bean (67) and Wayne Levi (68).

Thorpe entered the final round four shots behind leader Jerry Pate but made three birdies on the front nine. His first bogey of the day came on the par-3 16th, but he followed that with an up-and-down birdie on the par-5 17th.

Wadkins, the 2001 champ, birdied 17 with a 6-foot putt to tie Thorpe. But he missed a par putt at the 18th.

Pate, who entered the final round of a tournament with a lead for the first time since 1981, had 3-over 73. He had one bogey over the first 36 holes and made four in a front-nine 39 on Sunday.



Georgios Karagounis, left, and Theodoros Zagorakis run with the trophy after Greece won the Euro 2004 final.

Underdogs to soccer Gods

Euro title gives Greeks a pre-Olympics lift

BY ROBERT MILLWARD

The Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — Even before the Olympics, 2004 will be remembered as one of the great years for Greek sports.

Greece won the European Championship in one of the biggest upsets in soccer history, beating host Portugal 1-0 on Sunday on Angelos Charisteas' goal early in the second half.

"I have no words to describe what I'm feeling right now," Greece captain Theodoros Zagorakis said. "We just proved once more that the Greek soul has always been there, the greatest thing that God gave us."

Charisteas scored in the 57th minute with a header off a corner kick from Angelos Basinas.

Giourkas Seitaridis went on a speedy run down the right and was stopped by a block by Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, with the ball rolling over the end line. Basinas floated the corner kick into the 6-yard box, and Charisteas timed his run perfectly to out-jump Jorge Andrade and beat goalkeeper Ricardo Pereira from 5 yards.

"All Greeks should celebrate this victory. We are the best team in Europe," Charisteas said. "It's the greatest moment of my career. When I scored, I thought we could not lose."

The unheralded Greeks, a 1001-shot given little chance of advancing from a first-round group that included Spain, Portugal and Russia, had been to only two major tournaments before this, the 1994 World Cup and the 1980 European Championship, failing to win a game.

In Athens, which hosts the Olympics from Aug. 13-29, thousands of jubilant fans waving Greek flags and honking car horns poured into the streets and fireworks formed a bright drapery over the Acropolis and other monuments.



Angelos Charisteas, far left, scores Greece's winning goal past Portugal goalkeeper Ricardo, far right, during the Euro 2004 championship.

Thousands of fans gathered in Omonia Square, many waving Greek flags and singing the national anthem. Some cried and embraced, some jumped into fountains and others spread out the national flag on the street and bowed in front of it.

"I have to say that I am very proud because these players gave a great victory to Greece," Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said. For many Greeks, the team's stunning run meant more than just a sports crown. It brought a powerful national high at a time when Greek taxpayers are grumbling about huge Olympic bills and security officials face non-stop pressure to satisfy international concerns.

Olympic organizers hope the soccer fervor will spill over to the Aug. 13-29 Games. Ticket sales have been sluggish and the blitz of work in Athens has made many people see the event more as a long headache rather than a glorious homecoming.

When referee Markus Merk blew the final whistle, about

15,000 Greek fans in the Stadium of Light cheered.

"I hope this reverberates in Greece. I hope when we get into Athens on Monday, there will be incredible scenes," said coach Otto Rehhagel, a German who helped Greece become the first team to win the quadrennial European title with a foreign coach.

Portugal, which dominated possession in its first major final, nearly tied the score with 16 minutes remaining but with goalkeeper Antonios Nikopolidis out of position. Ronaldo lobbed the ball over the crossbar.

Traianos Dellas blocked Ronaldo's shot with 10 minutes to go, and Nikopolidis allowed a rebound of Ricardo Carvalho's 25-yard shot, but Portugal didn't have anyone in front.

No host had ever lost a European Championship final.

"We couldn't take advantage of our chances," Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. "There were shots that could have gone in, which would have changed the result. Unfortunately, they didn't go in."

Unresolved cases clouding track trials

BY ELLIOTT ALMOND
AND MARK EMMONS

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — U.S. track and field is facing a nightmare scenario. Six athletes fighting drug bans might compete in the U.S. Olympic trials, which start Friday in Sacramento, because their cases are unresolved.

As U.S. Anti-Doping Agency officials work feverishly in the coming days to prosecute athletes tied to BALCO laboratories, they do not expect to settle all of the cases until just before next month's Athens Games.

"Who knows who is going to compete?" trials meet director John Chaplin said.

Usually, those who finish among the top three in their event in the trials earn a trip to the Olympics. But nothing is certain because some who qualify for the team might end up banned. That has led to urgency to complete the cases by this week.

"If it weren't for the Olympics, they wouldn't be in a big hurry," a source familiar with the matter said.

Although a majority of the runners who have been charged with drug violations have entered the two-week trials, official registration isn't until Wednesday.

"There's still time to do something," Chaplin, the 2000 U.S. Olympic track coach, said.

Whatever happens, track's marquee event will be shadowed by drug talk even as some of America's best athletes try to qualify for the Athens Games.

The situation has left Olympic officials with an unprecedented set of circumstances. At least six past Olympians who have tested positive, are accused of using banned drugs or are under investigation by the anti-doping agency could compete in Sacramento:

■ Middle-distance star Regina Jacobs, who tested positive for the designer steroid THG, is arguing in federal court that the make-up of the arbitration panels that hear doping cases is unfairly tilted against athletes. She could receive a two-year ban.

■ Tim Montgomery, the

100-meter world-record holder, sprinter Chryste Gaines; and 400-meter runner Michelle Collins have received letters from the anti-doping agency indicating that they face lifetime bans because of circumstantial evidence gathered in the BALCO case.

■ Calvin Harrison, a 400-meter runner, faces a two-year ban after testing positive for the sleep-disorder drug modafinil, his second violation for a stimulant. He previously tested positive for a stimulant found in a cold medicine.

■ Five-time Olympic medalist Marion Jones has not been charged with a drug offense, but she claims that the anti-doping agency is investigating her despite repeated denials.

Even if the athletes qualify for the Olympics, they could be prevented from competing in Athens by the international track and field federation, which can provisionally suspend an athlete charged with a drug violation until the case is resolved.

While the anti-doping agency has been criticized for moving too slowly, drug testers say they do not want to risk losing a case simply to stop an athlete from competing in the trials.

Drug officials are interested in the potential testimony of BALCO owner Victor Conte Jr., who could provide compelling evidence against athletes and coaches linked to the case.

But that information might surface after the Olympics during the trial of Conte and three other Bay Area men charged with conspiring to distribute banned drugs to athletes.

Thus, anti-doping agency officials have moved cautiously. They might be willing to allow an athlete who they suspect is dirty to compete in Athens rather than risk an unfavorable arbitration decision beforehand.

The reasoning is simple. If overwhelming evidence was revealed after the Olympics that the athlete in question had used drugs, the agency would be unable to strip the individual of a medal because arbitration decisions are binding.

800HighTech.com
The Military Computer
SUPERSTORE

Today's Heroes...

800HighTech.com
When You Can't Call Home

Tonight's Emails

Krzyzewski rejects Lakers to stay at Duke

Blue Devils coach opts not to make leap to professional hoops

By Aaron Beard

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Mike Krzyzewski has informed the Lakers of his decision. An afternoon news conference was scheduled on coach.

The school said Monday that Krzyzewski had informed the Lakers of his decision. An afternoon news conference was scheduled on campus.

Krzyzewski, who has led Duke to three national titles in his 24 years at the school, met with Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak on Thursday to discuss the team's coaching vacancy, one of the NBA's showcase positions. Even Lakers star Kobe Bryant was reportedly involved in trying to persuade Coach K to take the job.

The Lakers had no immediate comment Monday on the decision by Krzyzewski, who signed a lifetime contract with Duke three years ago.

The Lakers have been searching for a new coach since June 18, when coach Phil Jackson stepped down three days after an NBA Finals loss to Detroit.



Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski ended talks with the Los Angeles Lakers, telling the NBA team he would remain at the school he led for 24 years, the school said.

The Los Angeles Times and ESPN reported that Krzyzewski was offered the job, but Lakers officials had refused comment.

Kenny Randolph, father of Duke forward Shavlik Randolph, said Krzyzewski told him in a phone call late Monday morning that he would stay with the Blue Devils.

"He just basically said the thing sort of ballooned out of proportion and that he appreciated our friendship and confidence, and that he'd remain at Duke," Randolph said. "And that's all that had to be said."

"I told him, 'Gosh, coach. I've got chill bumps.' And he said, 'I do, too.'"

The 57-year-old Krzyzewski has a 621-181 record at Duke, leading the Blue Devils to championships in 1991, 1992 and 2001. Under Krzyzewski, the Blue Devils have 10 Final Four appearances, eight Atlantic Coast Conference tournament championships and 10 conference regular-season titles.

His Duke teams have been ranked No. 1 in 12 seasons, including each of the last seven.

Gary Melchionni, father of junior Lee Melchionni and a former Duke basketball player, expressed relief that Krzyzewski will try to add to his impressive Duke résumé.

"That's great news," Melchionni said. "I just want him to get back to work."

Krzyzewski has had several flirtations with the NBA and has said he came close to leaving Duke in 1990 to coach the Boston Celtics.

Following the loss to the Pistons, the Lakers said Jackson would not return. Jackson, who signed a five-year, \$30 million contract with the Lakers in June 1999, guided them to championships in his first three seasons.

Former Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich has been considered a front-runner to succeed Jackson. He has met with team owner Jerry Buss and Kupchak.

Former Lakers coach Pat Riley, an executive with the Miami Heat, also met with

Buss and Kupchak, but issued a statement saying he wasn't a candidate.

Others mentioned have been Kurt Rambis and Jim Clemons, members of Jackson's staff.

But the Lakers appeared most interested in trying to lure Krzyzewski from Duke, a private school where basketball has a rabid following among the 6,300 students.

The Cameron Indoor Stadium hardwood is named "Coach K Court."

Outside the arena, a sign designates the grassy plot where students camp out to attend games as "Krzyszewskiville," where the coach has been known to occasionally buy pizzas for the waiting "Cameron Crazyes."

After the Lakers' interest became known, Duke officials said they were open to improving Krzyzewski's contract.

John Burness, Duke's senior vice president for public and government relations, said Monday the university has spoken with Krzyzewski about the contract "and it's reasonable to assume some modifications will be made." He would not elaborate.

Burness said the Lakers' effort to land Krzyzewski was nothing new at Duke.

"We have some of the most outstanding academic people in the world, and we have to address the fact that other leading institutions try to raid us regularly," he said.

"We realize that when we have the best people ... they'll always be in high demand."

Conservative Armstrong fourth overall in Tour

By John Leicester

The Associated Press

NAMUR, Belgium — While Lance Armstrong played it safe, Robbie McEwen sprinted to victory Monday in a crash-filled second stage of the Tour de France.

Armstrong kept his drive for a record sixth straight Tour victory on track by placing comfortably down in the field — along with several key rivals — in 85th. Armstrong's biggest threat, 1997 Tour winner Jan Ullrich, finished 38th, in the same time as the Texan.

Armstrong is in fourth place overall, 18 seconds behind leader Thor Hushovd of Norway.

As the pack of riders bore down on the finish, McEwen used a burst of speed to get to the front and raised his arms in victory as he crossed the line. Such mass sprints are always hazardous and this one took out two riders who crashed in the last few hundred yards.

McEwen beat second-placed Hushovd in the 122-mile route from Charleroi to Namur, with a

small detour into neighboring France. But Hushovd, who was third in another sprint finish Sunday, still secured the overall race lead and the coveted yellow jersey that goes with it.

"Everything was on automatic," McEwen said. "I won't say it was easy but it went really nicely."

Spills, wind, and the threat of breakaways filled the first week with stress for Armstrong and his rivals who are saving themselves for their duels in the mountains and later time trials.

"It's really stressful. In the last 20 to 30 kilometers (15 to 20 miles) the pace really picks up and everybody fights. All etiquette is out the door. You do what you can — you scratch and bite and do whatever," said American rider Levi Leipheimer, 13th overall.

To keep the five-time champion safe, his U.S. Postal Service squad generally designates two teammates to stay with Armstrong during each stage, Postal veteran George Hincapié said.

Hincapié, competing in his ninth Tour, and Viatcheslav Eki-mov, a Russian on his 14th Tour, usually take over the bodyguard role for final 12 miles, when the pack is speeding to the line.

"We keep him out of the wind, keep him from going too far behind, just keep him in a good position all day — with as little energy expenditure as possible," Hincapié said.

There were several crashes during the stage run under sunny skies. One came just 14 miles

from the finish when a pack of riders caught up to six cyclists who had led most of the stage.

For Gian Matteo Fagnini, the Tour ended with a crash 25 miles from the finish. The Italian rider for the Domina Vacanze squad injured his collarbone and was taken to a hospital. Other riders caught up in the spill rejoined the race.

Tuesday could be another day of thrills and spills, with two sections of cobblestone paths that some riders are dreading. The weather forecast is for sunshine, a good sign for riders since the paving can become treacherous when wet.

"Everybody's concerned," said Hincapié. "It's going to be a little technical stage and a lot can be lost."

Both cobblestone sections come in the second half of the mostly flat 130-mile stage from Waterloo, Belgium, to the northern French town of Wassequeul. The route should again favor sprinters or riders who brave a breakaway ahead of the main pack.

The first cobbled section runs for 1.7 miles. The second, 15 miles from the finish, is nearly three-quarters of a mile long.

Punctures, crashes, crowds are all potential hazards. Some say the cobblestone sections have no place in the Tour and could spoil the race if they use a top rider.

"It's too risky," said Dirk Demol, assistant sporting director for Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service squad.

Danish squad CSC plans to fit



U.S. Postal Service team leader and five-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, third right, is framed by his teammates as the pack rides during the second stage of the 91st Tour de France between Charleroi and Namur, Belgium, Monday. Armstrong is fourth overall.

slightly wider wheels with more grip and have people roadside armed with spares for any punctures, spokesman Brian Nygaard said. Top rider Ivan Basso, an outside contender for the title, has never competed on cobblestones before, although the team scouted both sections twice last week, he added.

Riders "don't like it. The element of chance is too big," said Nygaard. "If you have a puncture there and have to wait two minutes for a spare your Tour could be over."

Armstrong rival Tyler Hamilton, who fractured his collarbone in a crash on day two of last year's Tour, also ordered wider wheels for his team, their mechanic said.

Hamilton says he would have avoided the stones had he designed the Tour route.

"But this is a bike racing is all about, different terrain, mountains, flat stages, crosswinds and this year cobblestones," he said. "We'll obviously try to stay toward the front and try to stay up-right, obviously. Our goal for that day is just safety."



Coolmax® T-shirts, Socks & Underwear
Specially designed for military personnel
www.sweatout.com
+1-610-272-5040

Cubs win Windy City, but it's not a breeze

Walker draws walk in ninth inning to give Cubs fourth win in six games vs. White Sox

BY RICK GANO

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — As the Wrigley Field crowd let out a deafening roar, pinch-hitter Todd Walker dug in against Damaso Marte and his 90-plus mph pitches.

After falling behind 0-2 with the bases loaded in the ninth, Walker worked a walk on a 3-2 pitch to give the Chicago Cubs a 2-1 victory and a three-game sweep of the crosstown White Sox on Sunday night.

"When you're down 0-2 to a guy like Marte, it's a battle from there. I got fortunate," said Walker, who was mobbed by his teammates after the winning run scored. "He's one of the nastiest lefties a lefty has to face. When it got 3-2, I tried to take extra time. ... It might have affected him here at Wrigley, the way the fans were on their feet."

Derek Lee homered for the Cubs off Mark Buehrle in the second, but Carlos Lee tied it with a ninth-inning homer off LaTroy Hawkins (2-1), who blew a save for the fourth time in 15 chances.

"I thought once Carlos hit the home run, we got some momentum on our side. I thought that was going to carry, but it didn't," Buehrle said.

Instead, the Cubs got their first Windy City Series sweep since 1998, when they also won all three of Wrigley. That season the teams played just one series, not two.

"Sweeping the Sox is nice, but more im-

portantly we want to win this division and we want to stay close to St. Louis," Cubs manager Dusty Baker said. "Boy, that was some game."

Moises Alou, selected to the All-Star team earlier in the day, singled off Shingo Takatsu (4-1) leading off the bottom of the ninth. Derek Lee sacrificed, Michael Barrett walked intentionally and Takatsu walked Ramon Martinez, loading the bases.

With Walker ready to pinch-hit, in came Marte, whose slingshot delivery is tough, especially against left-handers.

"I think he was the right match and he didn't get it done," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "There's nobody more disappointed than Ozzie Guillen. There's nobody who wants to beat the Cubs or anybody more than me. Wait for next year, I guess."

Derek Lee had three of the four hits off Buehrle, who struck out eight and walked two in seven innings. But it was Lee's nearly perfect punt on a rare sacrifice attempt that set up the ninth inning winner for the Cubs.

"I was a little surprised because I never bunted that much, but it got the guy in scoring position," Lee said. "It was a crucial situation and I didn't want to blow it."

Glendon Rusch, who came out of the bullpen May 27, started in place of starter Wally Mulder. Mulder, who had five hits in six shutout innings, striking out six and walking none.



Moises Alou (18) is greeted after scoring the winning run in the ninth inning of the Chicago Cubs' 2-1 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Sunday night. The Cubs swept the three-game weekend series and won four of six overall from their crosstown rival.

"That's about as loud as I've ever heard it in any stadium," Rusch said, calling his performance one of his best. And, with Wood ready to return in about a week, it might be one of his last as a starter.

Rusch was 1-12 last season with the Milwaukee Brewers, but the Cubs might be in a deep hole without him, considering all their injuries.

"He keeps doing it. I think he's one of the guys who has helped the Cubs stay a contender," Guillen said.

Buehrle, who has won seven of eight decisions, worked quickly and flashed his impressive pickoff move in the fourth when

he caught All-Star Sammy Sosa leaning the wrong way at first. Buehrle later made an error on a wild pickoff but the Cubs were unable to capitalize.

The White Sox won two of three last week against the Cubs at home, then went to Minnesota and won three straight to take the lead in the AL Central.

They came to Wrigley Field leading the majors in scoring and with a five-game winning streak, but managed just five runs in the series.

"Glendon Rusch kept our guys off balance and we didn't score any runs," Buehrle said.

Phillies' Milton first pitcher in NL to win 11

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Phillies are in first place in the NL East, thanks in large part to lefty Eric Milton.

Milton went six-plus innings to become the National League's first 11-game winner and Bobby Abreu homered and drove in three runs as Philadelphia beat the Baltimore Orioles 5-2 on Sunday. Abreu went 2-for-4 with his 17th homer and a two-run double as the Phillies won two of three in the interleague series to hold a two-game lead over the New York Mets in the division race.

Milton (11-2) joined Boston's Curt Schilling and Texas' Kenny Rogers for most victories in the majors.

Coming off his worst start of the season against the Montreal Expos last Tuesday — seven earned runs in five innings — Milton gave Baltimore two runs on seven hits, striking out four and walking one. He also had two hits.

"Milton has been our rock," manager Larry Bowser said.

Milton, acquired in a trade from Minnesota (10-6) allowed five hits and struck out 10 and Al Pedrique got his first victory as manager of host Arizona.

Carlos Silva (8-6) gave up four runs and nine hits in six innings.

Baseball roundup

said when asked of winning 11 before the break. "But we're a very good team that is starting to get hot right now."

Milton gave up consecutive singles to replace the seventh and was startled by Rhael Cormier, who retired the side with help from a double-play grander by leadoff hitter Brian Roberts.

"We had opportunities, putting runners on and had the right guys up, guys that can run," Baltimore manager Lee Mazzilli said. "You don't expect your leadoff man to hit into a double play."

"It seems like guys are trying too hard. We just have to fight through it."

Roberto Hernandez worked the eighth and Tim Worrell closed the game with his ninth save in 12 chances.

"Roberto did a great job for us there," said Bowser, adding closer Billy Wagner to rest after three straight appearances.

Sidney Ponson (3-12), who returned to the Orioles as a free agent in offseason, dropped his club-record-ninth consecutive start and is 1-10 in his last 11. He leads the majors in losses.

Braves 10, Red Sox 4: At Atlanta, Derek Lowe (6-8) gave up eight runs in 4 1/3 innings and the host Braves rode a nine-run fifth.

Boston has lost eight of its last 11 games. Mike Hampton (3-8) was the winner.

Dodgers 6, Angels 2: Jeff Weaver took a shutout into the seventh inning and Paul Lo Duca drove in three runs to lead visiting Los Angeles.

Weaver (6-8) allowed eight hits and two runs in 6 1/3 innings for the Dodgers, who have won five of seven. The Angels lost for the sixth time in seven games overall.

Kelvin Escobar (4-5) allowed four hits and six runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Cardinals 2, Mariners 1: Jeff Suppan (7-5) pitched four-hit ball into the eighth inning and Jim Edmonds threw out a runner at the plate in the fourth, helping the host Cardinals complete a three-game sweep.

The Cardinals finished 11-1 in interleague play, baseball's best record since interleague played began in 1997.

Scott Rolan and Reggie Sanders drove in a run apiece in the sixth against Joel Pineiro (4-9).

Reds 5, Indians 4 (11): Tim Lincecum hit a run-scoring single

in the bottom of the 11th off Rick White (3-3), and the Indians wasted a three-run lead in the eighth as their bullpen blew a save for the 17th time in 30 opportunities.

Todd Jones (6-2) pitched the 11th.

Expos 6, Blue Jays 4: At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Shawn Hill (1-1) got his first major league win, pitching five innings.

Joe Horgan struck out Reed Johnson with the bases loaded for his first career save.

Ted Lilly (7-5) earned a win three runs — two earned — in five innings.

Rangers 18, Astros 3: Mark Teixeira and pinch-hitter Hank Blalock hit grand slams, the first time two Rangers have done it in the same game.

Teixeira added a solo shot and Kevin Mench also had two homers as the visiting Rangers posted their highest run total this season.

Andy Pettitte (4-2) allowed six runs on eight hits with four strikeouts and three walks.

Joaquin Benoit (3-3) got the win.

Rockies 10, Tigers 8: Vinny Castilla and Royce Clayton each drove in four runs to help host Colorado tie a club record by overcoming an eight-run deficit.

Shawn Chacon struck out Ivan Rodriguez with two runners on to end the eighth inning and pitched the ninth for his 17th save. Adam Bernero (1-0) pitched two innings of relief.

Gary Knotts (4-3) allowed nine runs on seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Marlins 4, Devil Rays 3: A.J. Burnett (1-3) won for the first time Aug. 18, 2002, ending a career-high winless span of 15 outings. Miguel Cabrera hit his 20th homer as host Florida snapped a four-game losing streak.

Damon Easley hit a two-run homer in the third off John Halama (4-3).

Padres 7, Royals 1: David Wells (4-5) had another impressive start for the host Padres, but he and first baseman Phil Nevin were forced out by injuries.

Wells fouled a ball off his lower right leg in the sixth inning and didn't go out for the seventh.

Two innings earlier, Nevin left with a possible cartilage tear in his right knee.

Mike Wood (1-1) allowed four runs.

Diamondbacks 6, Twins 2: Randy Johnson (10-6) allowed five hits and struck out 10 and Al Pedrique got his first victory as manager of host Arizona.

Carlos Silva (8-6) gave up four runs and nine hits in six innings.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB
Milwaukee					
Capuano L3-4	5/3	6	6	6	2
Wise	2/3	1	0	0	0
Kinney	2	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh					
SBurnett W2-2	6	9	2	2	0
Gonzalez	1	1	0	0	0
Storres	1 1/3	2	0	0	0
Mesa S20	2/3	0	0	0	0
HBP—by Capuano (CWilson). T—2					
A—19.029 (38.496).					

Junior joins an historic outfield

Healthy at last, Griffey to start beside fellow 500-home-run men Bonds, Sosa

By RICK FREEMAN
The Associated Press

Barry Bonds already knows what he's looking forward to at the All-Star Game next week — his first chance to play alongside Ken Griffey Jr.

"Yeah, it's going to be fun playing with Junior," Bonds said. "The All-Star Game is great. Just seeing everyone. You play with guys you'll probably never play with in your lifetime for a day."

Griffey is ready to play his first All-Star Game in a Cincinnati uniform. In his first season with the Reds, he made the 2000 NL team, but a sore knee kept him out.

The next three seasons, more serious injuries kept Griffey from even making the team. But now that he's back, it's got to be even sweeter than his 11 previous appearances, right?

"No, because you always appreciate it. You never take it for granted," Griffey said. "The fans that took time out to punch my name — that means a lot to me."

The last time he was fully healthy for an All-Star Game, Junior won his third home-run derby, and the next night took the field with baseball's All-Century team, in a stirring ceremony at Turner Field.

His company in the starting outfield at Minute Maid Park will be similarly exclusive. When Griffey trots out to center to start the game, he'll be joined by Bonds on one side and Sammy Sosa on the other. It will be the first time three players with 500 homers start together in an All-Star Game.

"That's very impressive. 1,600 home runs or whatever it is," Cubs manager Dusty Baker said. "A lot of home runs and there, a lot of miles on them, lots of hours, lots of work and lots of years."

Perennial AL All-Star Roger Clemens will be making his first appearance in the NL. The 41-year-old is in line to throw on start on July 13 before a hometown crowd in Houston.

And if NL manager Jack McKeon chooses, the former New York Yankees ace would be caught by his former Gotham nemesis, Mike Piazza of the Mets.

First time All-Star Francisco Rodriguez was nearly speechless when informed he was selected by players, managers and coaches.

"I've got no words to describe how I feel right now," the Angels reliever said. "I'm

just really proud of myself. I believe there will be the same butterflies I had pitching in Game 7 of the World Series."

K-Rod is one of 19 first-time All-Stars. Another first-timer, shortstop Jack Wilson of the Pirates, has been anxious for days. Pittsburgh manager Lloyd McClendon had some fun with him, summoning him to his office to give him the good news.

"I haven't slept well for a couple of nights," Wilson said.

"I never thought this was possible. This is the biggest honor of all ... and it probably won't hit me until I'm sitting on the field in Houston with my son, watching the home

run derby."

Said McClendon: "I had to tell him. It's been killing him."

Detroit manager Alan Trammell tried to persuade AL skipper Joe Torre to take shortstop Carlos Guillen as a reserve. But Guillen's .324 average, 11 homers and 57 RBIs made a better case than Trammell did.



Larkin will be playing in his 12th All-Star Game, 16 years after his first in 1988. The 40-year-old shortstop is expected to retire after this season.

Griffey is looking forward to having Larkin in Houston.

"I'm trying to talk Barry into throwing to me in the home run derby," Griffey said. "He'd make a great batting practice thrower."

Florida Marlins pitcher Carl Pavano earned his first trip to the All-Star Game by going 9-3 with a 2.92 ERA in 16 starts.



Mark Mulder was voted by the players, managers and coaches to the AL team as starting pitcher along with Boston's Curt Schilling, Cleveland's C.C. Sabathia and Texas' Kenny Rogers.

"I'd be awesome to start, but just going is cool enough," said Mulder, who might open for the AL.

Joining Clemens among the NL starters are the Mets' Tom Glavine, Johnson, San Francisco's Jason Schmidt and the Cubs' Carlos Zambrano.



Ken Griffey Jr. was selected to his first All-Star Game since 2000, when he didn't play because of an injured knee.

"I can tell you now. I got a call from Alan Trammell. He kept making the case for Carlos Guillen," Torre said. "We got cut off, and he was at some mystery number, and I couldn't call him back. But he called me back, and I couldn't stop him from making the case for his guy. And he went on and on, and finally I said, 'He made the team. He's on the team. He was on the team before you called.'"

Jim Thome's 27 homers were enough to convince Florida manager Jack McKeon, who also took Marlins starter Carl Pavano (9-3, 2.92 ERA).

"It's a nice surprise," Pavano said. "This is definitely nice, but I think there are bigger and better things out there for me."

McKeon also took one of his former players, Barry Larkin of Cincinnati.

"There were some very tough decisions," McKeon said. "I started with a preliminary list of 46 players. I thought could make the team and had to pick 31. Some guys who should be going aren't going because you've got to get at least one from each team."

Griffey is looking forward to having Larkin in Houston.

"I'm trying to talk Barry into throwing to me in the home run derby," Griffey said. "He'd make a great batting practice thrower."

AP Sports Writers Mike Fitzpatrick in New York, Jan McCauley in San Francisco, Joe Kay in Cincinnati, Alan Robinson in Pittsburgh, Mark Long in Miami and Rick Gans in Chicago contributed to this report.

MLB All-Star statistics

American League												
Through July 4												
STARTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI				
Rodriguez, Det	.377	292	41	110	23	1	10	57				
Calder												
Giambi, NYY	.238	189	28	45	9	0	11	31				
Second Base												
Soriano, Tex	.294	337	41	99	13	0	14	50				
Arduengo, NYY	.238	189	28	45	9	0	11	31				
Jeter, NYY	.278	320	40	89	17	0	13	41				
Outfield												
Querrero, Ana	.347	320	40	111	24	0	20	71				
Ramirez, Bos	.304	294	40	100	27	0	22	65				
Suzuki, Sea	.318	294	41	112	15	2	3	35				
RESERVES	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI				
Marinez, Cle	.299	264	46	79	25	1	12	60				
Harvey, KC	.328	271	30	89	13	0	10	34				
Ortiz, Bos	.300	244	36	81	13	0	12	35				
Second Base												
Bellard, Cle	.310	320	48	98	25	0	5	34				
Third Base												
Blalock, Tex	.314	325	57	102	21	2	22	61				
Guillen, Det	.324	305	59	99	23	7	11	57				
Toleda, Bal	.315	317	44	100	17	1	13	69				
Young, Tex	.331	353	59	117	16	6	11	47				
Outfield												
Crawford, TB	.316	326	59	103	17	8	4	32				
Lawton, Cle	.317	312	42	102	13	0	14	48				
Sheffield, NYY	.300	351	52	104	24	3	17	53				
PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	SV	IP	H	BB	SO				
Cordero, Tex	2.0	1.80	24	35.0	25	18	37	50				
Gordon, NYY	2.3	1.66	27	46.0	26	15	45	45				
Lizdon, Cal	7.3	2.08	0	108.2	110	25	52	58				
Julio, Tex	4.1	4.01	0	98.2	95	25	52	58				
Hudson, Cal	8.4	3.47	0	115.1	121	35	62	52				
Nathan, Min	1.0	1.19	23	37.2	36	17	44	44				
Givens, NYY	0.4	0.40	0	41.2	31	13	35	35				
Rodriguez, Tex	1.1	1.04	7	43.1	26	16	68	68				
Rogers, Tex	1.12	1.42	0	102.2	108	24	69	69				
Sabatina, Cle	5.3	2.77	0	97.1	82	32	61	61				
Schilling, Bos	11.4	3.08	0	120.0	114	21	110	110				

National League

Through July 4												
STARTERS	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI				
Piazza, NYM	.302	258	34	89	17	0	16	40				
Pujols, StL	.309	267	40	88	24	0	21	57				
Second Base												
Kent, Hou	.276	260	36	79	20	4	10	52				
Third Base												
Rolen, STL	.344	252	54	97	18	3	18	78				
Outfield												
Renteria, STL	.283	253	47	83	19	0	14	46				
Bonds, SF	.322	276	64	83	19	0	22	46				
Rodriguez, Cin	.245	227	35	68	15	13	25	35				
Sosa, Chi	.271	288	30	51	11	0	14	33				
RESERVES	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI				
Estrada, Atl	.328	328	32	78	25	0	15	54				
First Base												
Casady, Atl	.325	267	55	101	26	1	4	45				
Holton, Col	.302	267	61	94	25	0	15	53				
Thome, Phi	.298	262	35	80	19	1	17	58				
Second Base												
Loretta, SD	.300	322	55	103	26	0	34	66				
Outfield												
Larkin, Cin	.309	242	40	69	11	2	4	30				
JWilson, Pit	.339	333	45	113	21	7	8	34				
Third Base												
Lowell, Fla	.309	310	50	94	24	1	9	51				
Outfield												
Alou, Chi	.325	311	50	86	19	1	19	49				
Berkman, Hou	.304	260	48	79	20	1	16	59				
Cabrera, Fla	.291	313	42	88	18	2	15	59				
PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	SV	IP	H	BB	SO				
Benitez, Fla	2.4	1.67	27	40.2	22	15	35	35				
Clemens, Hou	10.2	2.63	0	102.2	82	43	107	107				
Gagne, Lg	1.4	1.07	21	34.0	18	9	49	49				
Glavine, NYY	7.5	2.16	0	116.2	88	29	60	60				
Graves, Cin	2.89	2.89	0	104.2	82	39	91	91				
Llano, Min	6.7	2.33	0	123.2	122	39	90	90				
Johnson, Atl	0.0	0.07	0	24.0	13	7	13	13				
Kohls, Mil	0.0	0.87	24	31.0	21	5	11	11				
McCauley, Fla	0.0	0.00	0	17.0	7	3	13	13				
Schmidt, SF	10.2	2.61	0	107.0	69	35	112	112				
Sheets, Mil	7.5	2.58	0	108.1	82	37	113	113				
Zambrano, Chi	9.3	2.41	0	108.1	84	41	99	99				

Charged: Oakland ace Mulder the likely starter for AL

CHARGED: FROM BACK PAGE

Alfonso Soriano, traded from the Yankees to Texas in February for Rodriguez, was elected to start at second and received the most votes in either league, 3.47 million.

"It'll be fun to see my friends," Soriano said.

Ivan Rodriguez, in his first season with Detroit, was elected to his 10th All-Star start at catcher.

Anaheim's Vladimir Guerrero and Boston's Manny Ramirez



Pittsburgh's Chris Stynes connects for a sixth-inning, two-run double off Brewers starter Chris Capuan on Sunday. Stynes had three RBIs.

Stynes powers Pirates to ninth straight victory

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Milwaukee Brewers are one of the few teams all season to say this: They couldn't wait to get out of Pittsburgh.

Chris Stynes, in a season-long slump, drove in three runs with a homer and two-run double and the Pirates ran their longest winning streak since 1996 to nine games, beating the Brewers 6-2 Sunday.

Stynes hit his first homer since Sept. 3, when he played with Colorado, and had a go-ahead two-run double in a four-run sixth inning. Stynes began the game with a .200 average and only 13 RBIs in 139 at-bats.

"It felt good to finally do something," Stynes said. "It's been a long year for me. But the important thing was to win the game ... and keep this going."

Jack Wilson also hit a solo home run as the Pirates extended their longest winning streak since

they won 11 in a row Sept. 12-22, 1996. They went 7-0 at home against St. Louis and Milwaukee, their first unbeaten homestand of that length since August 1998.

Jose Mesa got the last two outs for his 21st save in 22 chances, striking out both batters he faced. The Brewers had 25 hits in the final two games of the four-game series, 10 Sunday, but scored only five runs.

"We're close, but we're getting singles with two outs instead of maybe leading off an inning with it. We're not getting the walks to go with the hits," said Lyle Overbay, who doubled and scored twice. "It seems like we can't get anything going."

Pittsburgh was the majors' worst road club much of the season, but has won seven in a row after winning only nine of its first 28 in PNC Park.

"We've got to get out of here, get this behind us and move on," said Brewers manager Ned Yost, whose team lost 3½ games in the NL Central standings in four days.

Crossed up across town

Mets sweep Yankees, win season series for first time

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Big Apple belonged to the New York Mets for the first time in years.

Ty Wigginton's second homer snapped an eighth-inning tie, Richard Hidalgo connected for the fourth straight game and the Mets finished off their first Subway Series sweep with a 6-5 victory over the New York Yankees on Sunday.

"It definitely feels good," Wigginton said. "Since I can remember as a kid, they've always been one of the best organizations in baseball and they always manage to get in the postseason."

The surprising Mets, who finished last in the NL East the past two seasons, took four of six from their cross-town rivals after going 0-6 in 2003. It's the first time they've won the season series since interleague play began in 1997.

As Braden Loeper got the last three outs in the ninth, Mets fans among the sellout crowd of 55,437 chanted "Sweep! Sweep!" That surely wasn't the present Yankees owner George Steinbrenner was hoping for on his 74th birthday.

"Those are the games you want to be in as a closer. It's a lot of fun," Loeper said. "They've got the best record in baseball and we just swept 'em. It says a lot."

Yankees manager Joe Torre played the game under protest after Jorge Posada was called out for interference when he was hit by the ball while running from first to second on Miguel Cairo's eighth-inning grounder. First baseman Mike Piazza dove for the ball in front of Posada.

"He didn't seem clear on what particularly he was protesting," crew chief Mike Reilly said. "We were very clear and we felt we had gotten everything right." The second baseman still had an opportunity to make a play on the ball before Posada deflected it.

Bernie Williams snapped an 0-for-17 skid by going 4-for-5 with a home run and three RBIs for the Yankees, who came to Shea Stadium following an exhilarating three-game sweep of Boston.

"We're not drained. We just made some mistakes. We have to pitch better," Posada said.

Orber Moreno (2-1) got the victory despite giving up Posada's tying single in the eighth.

Wigginton hit a two-run shot in the second to put



Mets fans hold up a sign behind Yankees catcher Jorge Posada rubbing in the Mets' series sweep.

the Mets ahead 3-0, but the bullpen threw blew leads.

With the score 5-5, Wigginton led off the eighth against All-Star reliever Tom Gordon (2-3) and sent a drive over the left-field fence for his 10th homer this season and third in two games.

"I really just tried to concentrate on getting one up in the zone that I could drive," Wigginton said.

The Yankees rallied for two runs in the seventh, tying it 4-4 on Derek Jeter's RBI single off Ricky Bottalico.

Hidalgo, acquired from Houston on July 17, then homered off Felix Heredia in the seventh to give the Mets a 5-4 lead.

Hideki Matsui opened the eighth with a double and scored on Posada's single. Posada was erased on Cairo's disputed grounder, and Moreno struck out pinch-hitter Jason Giambi to end the inning.

"There's no excuses," Yankees outfielder Gary Sheffield said. "Those guys played well. They played better than we did."

Federal Employment Law & Litigation Center
A trade name of the law firm Melville Johnson P.C.
Representing Federal Employees in Employment Claims
EEO • OPM • MSPB • Retirement
Federal Litigation & Appeals Worldwide
Phone 404.524.9111 Atlanta, Georgia
gethris@melvillejohnson.com
www.melvillejohnson.com

★ Standard Issue Meets A New Standard.★

Now Stars and Stripes newspaper is also available electronically. Get your copy for FREE at estripes.osd.mil

Your Hometown Newspaper: Wherever You Go, We Go.



A's give Bonds record, take win

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds is advising Rickey Henderson not to try to make a comeback just to regain the walks record.

"If he comes back, he will never catch me," Bonds said with a chuckle.

Bonds became baseball's career walks leader, breaking Henderson's major league record when he drew his 2,191st from Chad Bradford in the eighth inning of the San Francisco Giants' 9-6 loss to the Oakland Athletics on Sunday.

The six-time NL MVP then strolled to first base and picked up the bag to save as a memento of his latest amazing milestone.

"I don't know how to react to a walks record," Bonds said. "It's just another one. I'd rather hit, but the circumstances, it's just what it is. I need a ring with all these other records."

The oft-used strategy of walking Bonds paid off for Oakland as Eric Byrnes hit two three-run homers for a career-high six RBIs, and Mark Mulder won his

career-best ninth straight decision for the A's.

On his record-breaking walk, Bonds felt behind 0-2 then drew four straight balls. He received a standing ovation, then went to retrieve the base.

What will he do with it? "I haven't decided yet — I just got it today," he said.

Bonds walked on a 2-3 pitch from Mulder leading off the sixth inning to the Henderson. Henderson was plunked on the right hand in the second inning and threw his bat down in pain and frustration, but stayed in the game. He hit a sacrifice fly in the fourth and struck out to end the game.

"That's incredible," Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda said. "Barry's a cleanup hitter. Henderson was a leadoff hitter who's supposed to walk. Wow. Unbelievable. Awesome!"

Bonds, the most feared slugging in the game, has been drawing walks at a remarkable rate in recent years as few teams are willing to challenge him. He already has 121 walks in the Giants' first

82 games — including 63 intentional passes — and is on pace to shatter his season record of 198 set in 2002.

Mulder made it clear he wasn't trying to plunk Bonds.

"I hit Bonds with a 2-1 fastball going in," Mulder said. "Unfortunately I got him on the hand. I'm not trying to hit him there. He's right on the plate and I'm just trying to come inside. With him, guys tend to overthrow things because he's so good."

Byrnes provided the offense for Mulder at this ballpark again.

On June 29, 2003, Byrnes hit for the cycle in San Francisco with Mulder on the mound. He is batting .483 (14-for-29) with three homers and nine RBIs here. San Francisco reliever Ty Walker was ejected in the sixth for hitting Mulder with a pitch on his right side, causing manager Felipe Alou to charge out and scream because the benches hadn't been warned.

Then Felix Rodriguez was ejected in the eighth for hitting Byrnes, and Alou was also thrown out for arguing.

SPORTS



Despite rich offer from Lakers, Duke's Krzyzewski decides to stay in school, Page 27

2004 All-Star Game, Minute Maid Park in Houston, Texas



2 a.m. Wednesday (CET), July 14, AFN-A and AFN-Pacific

Highly charged NL battery

A bitter history binds All-Stars Clemens, Piazza

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Piazza could get a much different perspective of Roger Clemens in the All-Star Game.

Instead of batting against the hard-throwing 41-year-old pitcher, Piazza might be catching his old nemesis.

Clemens was picked Sunday for his first NL All-Star team and Piazza was elected by fans to start in the July 13 game in Houston that determines home-field advantage in the World Series.

With a 10-2 record for the Astros, Clemens is the likely starter in his hometown.

"We both have a job to do. I'm sure it will be totally professional," Piazza said. "I don't think it's going to be that hard. We're two guys who know what to do."

Clemens, then with the New York Yankees, hit Piazza in the head with a pitch in July 2000. In Game 2 of the World Series that October, Clemens threw the jagged barrel of a shattered bat in the direction of Piazza, earning a \$50,000 fine.

"It's not that big a deal. It's definitely not larger than the game, unless you all make it that," Clemens said. "I'm not too concerned about that. I'm professional about my work and so is Mike."

A nine-time All-Star in the American



AP photos

Mike Piazza, left, the starting catcher for the National League All-Star team, says he won't mind being the backdrop for Roger Clemens, the NL's likely starting pitcher in the July 13 game at Minute Maid Park in Houston. Clemens hit Piazza in the head with a pitch in 2000 and threw the jagged barrel of a shattered bat at him in the World Series that October.

League, Clemens was among five starting pitchers voted to the National League team by major league players, managers and coaches.

Clemens will be joined by Arizona's Randy Johnson and Cincinnati's Barry Lar-

kin as 40-plus All-Stars.

Piazza, in what will probably be his final All-Star appearance as a catcher, was elected to start for the 10th time, his 11th All-Star selection overall. He has caught just 34 games for the New York Mets this season and has played first base in 37.

There was just one change among starters in the final week of fan voting, with Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki overtaking the Yankees' Hideki Matsui for the final AL outfield spot.

Barry Bonds, Ken Griffey Jr. and Sammy Sosa were elected to start in the NL outfield, the first time three players with 500 home runs will start.

"It's going to be fun playing with Jun-jun," Bonds said.

Griffey, who reached 500 on June 20, is going to the All-Star Game for the first time since 2000, which was his 11th straight selection. "I'm the little guy in the outfield," he said.

Added Sosa: "I'm really going to enjoy it

because I don't know if it's ever going to happen again."

Carlos Beltran, traded from Kansas City to Houston last month, was voted an AL reserve, his first All-Star selection, but the deal means he can't play in the game unless he's added to the NL team as a replacement.

"I'm the lucky one, I guess," Beltran quipped.

Six members of the AL champion Yankees were picked, including three elected to start in the infield. Derek Jeter was voted to his first start at shortstop, Jason Giambi to his third start at first base and Alex Rodriguez to his first at third base following six at shortstop. They will be joined by outfielder Gary Sheffield and relievers Mariano Rivera and Tom Gordon.

"They all deserved to be there," said the Yankees' Joe Torre, who will manage the AL team.

SEE CHARGED ON PAGE 30

The votes are tallied, let the stars play

Here are the voting totals for the 2004 All-Star Game to be played July 13, at Minute Maid Park in Houston.



American League

First base	Jason Giambi	Yankees	1,784,443
Second base	Alfonso Soriano	Rangers	3,466,447
Third base	Alex Rodriguez	Yankees	2,915,901
Shortstop	Derek Jeter	Yankees	2,052,880
Catcher	Ivan Rodriguez	Tigers	2,537,586
Outfield	Vladimir Guerrero	Angels	3,024,870
Outfield	Manny Ramirez	Red Sox	2,682,121
Outfield	Ichiro Suzuki	Mariners	1,891,136

National League

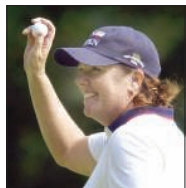
Albert Pujols	Cardinals	2,649,013
Jeff Kent	Astros	2,898,381
Scott Rolen	Cardinals	3,187,710
Edgar Renteria	Cardinals	2,028,840
Mike Piazza	Mets	2,296,667
Barry Bonds	Giants	2,952,237
Ken Griffey Jr.	Reds	2,837,526
Sammy Sosa	Cubs	2,197,255

SOURCE: Major League Baseball

AP

LPGA veteran Mallon fires final-round 65 to claim second U.S. Women's Open title

Page 25



Wigginton's two homers give Mets surprising sweep in Subway Series

Page 31



Tour de France: Armstrong avoids trouble, finishes Stage 2 with main pack

Page 27